Torres admin remits $1M to Settlement Fund. PAGE 2
Torres turns to MPLT, which turns to DPL. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXVI, Issue No. 88

www.saipantribune.com | WEDNESDAY MAY 4, 2016 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune | 75¢

SINCE JANUARY 2016 CHCC SAYS:

'15 TB cases identified on Saipan'

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Health officials going through contact tracking for possibly exposed individuals

A total of 15 cases of tuberculosis have been identified so far this year on Saipan, according to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., with the number of active ones still at three.

See TB on Page 4

FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. health officials held a press conference on tuberculosis to educate the public on the disease led by Division of Public Health Services medical director Dr. Ngoc-Phuong Luu, right, and state epidemiologist Dr. Paul White, center. At left is CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muna.

IN CASE VS EX-DPS COMMISSIONER, COP

Lawyer: No reason to proceed with trial

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Attorney Richard W. Pierce asserted that if his client, police officer Jesse S. Concepcion, reasonably believed that the 15-year-old girl he and former Department of Public Safety commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero were accused of sexually abusing was of age for sexual activity based on her appearance and own statements

See LAWYER on Page 4

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Attorney Richard W. Pierce, counsel for Police Officer Jesse S. Concepcion, emerges from the courtroom of Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho during preliminary hearing last April 22. Concepcion and former Department of Public Safety commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero are facing charges for allegedly sexually assaulting a 15-year-old girl in 2013.

World-leading credit agencies rating Saipan casino

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Fitch Group, Standard and Poor, and Moody's were the top rating agencies that visited Saipan last week to meet with the Saipan casino, Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, and also held meetings with casino regulators, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

Regulators were asked last week to meet with these rating agencies, which are seen as the "Big 3" most powerful credit agencies in the world, in private over financial matters.

The very fact that the agencies were on island and meeting with the casino may have posed a sensitive issue for the Hong Kong Stock Market, *Saipan Tribune* learned, because the casino company is required to report such activity to the market.

Whether the casino did or did not, they asked regulators to not divulge the rating agencies' presence on island.

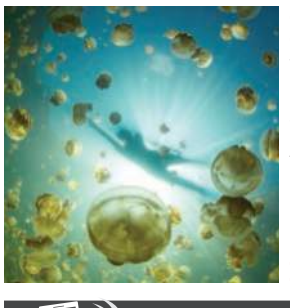
However, the Saipan Casino Commission could not meet unless they announced they were meeting, per CNMI law.

The agencies essentially aim to rate Imperial Pacific's credit worthiness as the casino company looks to finance its mammoth casino project on island.

Representatives from Morgan Stan-

See CASINO on Page 4

INSIDE



LOCAL
The big question at Palau's Jellyfish Lake: Where are all the jellyfish?
PAGE 13

FOCUS
Candelario Jimon Alonzo came to the U.S. dreaming of becoming something more than what seemed possible along the rutted roads of his hometown in Guatemala's highlands.
PAGE 17

LIFE & STYLE
Conventional movie wisdom would suggest that there can only be diminishing returns with long-running franchises.
PAGE 20

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

CHAMPION FINANCE

Champion Finance is looking for Dynamic individuals who would like to be a part of our team for the following post.

Loan / Financial Manager

Duties:

- Review loan agreements to ensure that they are complete and accurate according to policy.
- Approve, reject, or coordinate the approval or rejection of lines of credit or commercial, real estate, or personal loans.
- Analyze applicants' financial status, credit, and property evaluations to determine feasibility of granting loans.
- Review collection reports to determine the status of collections and the amounts of outstanding balances.
- Set credit policies, credit lines, procedures and standards in conjunction with senior managers.
- Oversee the flow of cash or financial instruments.
- Prepare financial or regulatory reports required by laws, regulations, or boardsof directors.
- Develop or analyze information to assess the current or future financial status of firms.
- Evaluate financial reporting systems, accounting or collection procedures, or investment activities and make recommendations for changes to procedures, operating systems, budgets, or other financial control functions.
- Establish procedures for custody or control of assets, records, loan collateral, or securities to ensure safekeeping.
- Plan, direct, and coordinate risk and insurance programs of establishments to control risks and losses.

Education/Experience:

- Bachelor's Degree in Finance, Business Administration or Accounting and 2 years' experience in Finance will be a plus. Salary will be discussed upon interview.

Interested candidates are requested to submit their resumes or pick up an employment application at
Champion Finance, 3rd floor, Marianas Business Plaza, Suite 316-B
or email championfinancecnmi@gmail.com

Local

Torres admin remits $1M to Settlement Fund

The administration of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres on Monday paid $1 million to the NMI Settlement Fund as part of amounts owed for the third quarter of this fiscal year.

Its last made payment on April 21 for the third quarter, also amounted to $1 million.

The payments bring the balance remaining payable in the third quarter 2016 to $4 million, out of the $6 million total.

The administration paid out $10.5 million for the second quarter of this fiscal year, paying this out in various disbursements from January to March.

The administration paid out $4.5 million in the first quarter of the fiscal year through several disbursements to the Fund.

Last month, the administration said in a statement, that they continue to ensure payments are made on time and value their positive partnership with the Fund and its trustee Joyce Tang.

They also said there was room for the Settlement Fund, the Legislature, and the administration to openly discuss measures to ensure the continued propitious payments to retirees and survivor beneficiaries. ***(Dennis B. Chan)***

NMTI asks $78K for typhoon rebuilding from Torres

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A request for funding from the Northern Marianas Technical Institute to repair damage to its building from Typhoon Soudelor is still pending with the Office of the Governor.

NMTI turned to the Gov. Ralph DLG Torres last April 13, asking for $78,800 for the cost of materials needed to rebuild their currently facility and for additional classrooms and shops inside the destroyed building.

In that April letter, NMTI says they have searched numerous avenues for financial assistance so their students can be afforded classrooms and carpentry and automotive shops but were unsuccessful.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency, they said, also disqualified them for funding on two grounds: the facility was not a single-family dwelling and second, the facility belongs to the government, not NMTI.

The U.S. Small Business Administration also found NMTI ineligible for a loan based on their ability to repay the loan, NMTI said.

NMTI said that their training program takes place in a substandard learning environment, emphasizing, among others, that the CNMI cannot expand and upgrade its manpower-training program if their facility is in such a condition.

Notably, NMTI points to the "Community Chest Fund" that is to be paid out by Best Sunshine International, Ltd, per its exclusive casino licensing agreement.

"Governor, we understand that we are not the only entity that turns to you for financial assistance…We know that training our human resources

See NMTI on Page 4

CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

IN STOCK ON SAIPAN

1 x Backhoe Loader:
2014 New Holland, 95HP, 4/1 Bucket, 400 hrs approx. ***$85,600***

1 x Telehandler:
JLG, 12,000 Pound, 2015, 55 ft max height, 250 hrs approx. ***$143,000***

1 x Air Compressor:
375 CFM, 2013, Paletek Sullivan, 750 hrs approx. ***$36,500***

1 x Flatbed Truck:
18 Ft Fuso, 2007, Auto, 26,067 miles approx. ***$56,500***

1 x Dump Truck:
3-4 Cubic Yards, Fuso 2015, Auto, 2,600 miles approx. ***$69,000***

IN STOCK ON GUAM

TRUCKS:

Fuso Box Trucks:
14 & 16 Ft, w/Rear Lift Gate, 2013, 11,600 miles approx. ***$62,000***

HYUNDAI EXCAVATORS:

2006, New Holland:
E30SR (3T) Rubber Track Mini Excavator ***$24,500***
Open Cab, SA Piping, 29 HP, Yanmar Engine, 2615 hrs

2008, Hyundai:
R210 LC-7 (21 Ton) Steel Track Excavator, Quick Coupler, ***$65,800***
SA Piping, A/C Cab, 143 HP Cummins Engine, 5600 hrs

2013, Hyundai:
R320 LC-9 (32 Ton) Steel Track Excavator, ***$125,500***
Quick Coupler, SA Piping, A/C Cab,
278 HP Cummins Engine, 4550 hrs

SCISSOR LIFTS:
Electric: 26 & 32 ft
$14,000 to $16,000

Multiple Units: Call for pricing
JLG & Haulotte, 2008, 70 to 640 hrs

IN STOCK ON GUAM

Boomlifts: 40, 45 ft, 60 & 80 ft ***$28,500 to $90,000***

Multiple Units: Call for pricing
JLG & Haulotte 2008 to 2014, Straight & Articulating Booms, Diesel & Dual Fuel

Telehandler: ***$49,500***
9,000 Pounds, JLG, 2008, Diesel, 43 Feet, 3,500 hrs

KOHLER DIESEL GENERATORS:

(New): ***$20,750***
20 KW - Kohler Diesel, 2016, Aluminium Soundproof Encl.
24 hour sub-base tank, 0 hrs, 12 Month Warranty

(New): ***$28,500***
100 KW - Kohler Diesel, 2016, Weatherproof Encl. Steel,
24 hour sub-base tank, 0 hrs, 12 Month Warranty

(Used): ***$21,000***
180 KW - Kohler Diesel, 2004, Weatherproof Encl.
200 Gallon sub-base tank, 2600 hrs

- ***(Guam prices include Guam GRT.)***
- ***All Dealer maintained with service history.***
- ***All equipment USA EPA emission compliant.***

MORRICO EQUIPMENT
Sales, Rental, Parts and Service

25 YEARS

(Trucks & Forklifts):
jennifer@morricoequipment.com
(Construction Equipment):
dexter@morricoequipment.com
(Generators & Aerials):
patrick@morricoequipment.com

197 Ypao Road,
Tamuning, Guam 96913
Tel: (671) 649-1946
Fax: (671) 649-1947
www.morricoequipment.com

TO HELP SOUDELOR VICTIMS:

Torres turns to MPLT, which turns to DPL

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The administration of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is exploring options to fund the building of permanent houses for victims of Typhoon Soudelor through a similar framework used in prior years to fund pressing utility matters using Marianas Public Land Trust funds loaned to the government.

But it's a wait-and-see approach if the Department of Public Lands has the money to advance this principal to the public land trust, who will in turn loan it to the government, to meet the unmet needs of victims nine months after the typhoon.

The Commonwealth Advocates for Recovery Efforts in January identified an unmet need of $2.48 million to rebuild and repair the homes of these Northern Marianas descent affected by the typhoon.

"The governor recognizes that housing issues continue to be a serious concern following Typhoon Soudelor and is making every effort to explore options to provide greater housing security for those who were and are still doing what they can to cope with the loss of their homes," the Torres administration said in a statement to *Saipan Tribune*.

Last month, DPL remitted some $800,000 after negotiating release of an account in the Bank of Saipan, following a letter from MPLT regarding Torres' request to fund rebuilding.

In a March 7 letter, obtained by *Saipan Tribune*, MPLT chair Martin Ada notified DPL that Torres was seeking funding to help NMD's whose houses were damaged by Soudelor and Typhoon Champi.

He said that since MPLT is unable per the Constitution to distribute trust principal, they were "interested in knowing the current resources being held" by DPL that may be distributed to the trust.

"As with the last distribution of $5 million in December 2014, which was loaned to the CNMI to fund the [Commonwealth Utility Corp.] stipulated order, any new distribution from DPL may similarly be used to meet the administration's needs."

In their March 10 response, DPL Secretary Marianne Teregeyo said that the fate of monies while in MPLT's custody, after transferred from DPL to the trust—whether invested in fiduciary grade investments, or lent to the CNMI government—is entirely up to the board of trustees.

"As for the funds currently held in DPL's bank accounts, our annual audit is in progress and we intend on remitting excess amounts after the audit," Teregeyo said.

MPLT board consultant Bruch MacMillan explained that they had a meeting with Torres, where the governor expressed interest in monies from MPLT. Trust officials, in turn, pointed to monies they believe DPL has been "holding that was due to us," MacMillan said.

"The only time we've gotten money from DPL recently has been because of a crisis," he said, pointing to some $3.5 million received in past years to fund the Agrekko lease of generators at CUC, whose generators then were in a dire state and needed replacement.

That amount was paid off against future distributions to the general fund. Similarly, another $4 million was distributed, which was used to help CUC pay past power bills.

Another $5 million from DPL in December 2014 was a result from a CUC stipulated order to satisfy the Environmental Protection Agency requirements.

"Similar to the prior emergencies, [the government] got DPL to release $5 million to us as a distribution, with strings attached that we had to lend it back to the central government to fund the stipulated orders," MacMillan said.

This essentially means that MPLT has a $5-million loan with the central government that's to be paid off through future distributions in the next three to four years.

This money comes from the public land leases and was treated as a principal contribution to the trust.

"In response to the governor's request for additional monies from MPLT, the chairman told him that MPLT would be willing to work with them on providing a similar arrangement if DPL were to provide us with another distribution of monies," MacMillan said.

"…We don't really know how much they have," he added. "But if they could provide us another distribution to our principal we could entirely do a similar transaction. And loan it back to central government. And use that for Soudelor victims."

EXPRESS FINANCIAL

Express Financial, a division of CAR Financial Services and a subsidiary of Atlanticus Holdings Corp., is continuing to expand our loan services in Saipan. We are currently looking to fill a position with a qualified candidate for:

- **COLLECTOR**

Bilingual in Chamorro, Carolinian, Tagalog a plus. A fulltime position is available. Use your past training and experience for early promotions or start your career on the ground floor of an expanding operation. Experience is helpful, but not required, as training programs will assist you for your career success. **Credit and background screening will apply.**

- **Excellent Benefits**
- **Great Team Atmosphere**
- **Top Salary Structure**

Please drop off your resume at the Express Financial Office in San Jose to James Matsumoto or
E-Mail to: James.Matsumoto@carfinancial.com or
Telephone: James Matsumoto – 670-235-6032
Mail: P.O.BOX 504084
Saipan, MP 96950

BE PREPARED TO START YOUR CAREER IMMEDIATELY!!

Happy Mother's Day!
Mothers play a very important role in our lives!
Treat your Mom to a delicious meal
and celebrate how special she is to you!
May 8th 2016 Sunday • 11:00am~2:00pm
Isla Café Restaurant
$27.50 Adult • $12.00 4 to 11 years old
20% Local Discount
Bottomless
Miler Lite Beer
& Sparkling Wine!
Reservations are recommended,
so please reserve early!
For reservations please call
234-6601 ext. 742/743
WOODBRIDGE
Kanoa Resort
Saipan

CUC board consults legal counsel ahead of CPUC hearing

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The board of the directors of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has reaffirmed one of its rate case applications for the scheduled Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission public hearing, which will begin on Thursday.

The board held a special meeting, discussing their rate case application in a two-hour executive session with their consultants, economists.com.

CUC legal counsel James Sirok said the rate case was put under executive session "to confer with the attorney considering rate matters."

"This is a strategy meeting for adjudication that begins during the hearing, just like a court case," Sirok said.

CPUC will conduct the public hearing on Thursday and Friday beginning at 10am at CUC's main conference room.

According to acting board chair Eric San Nicolas, there were no changes to the application, Docket 15-03, which was already approved since February and was filed before CPUC in March.

"We called this special board meeting with to consult with our legal counsel with regards to our docket that's going to be heard on Thursday meeting," San Nicolas said.

Docket 15-03, is CUC's application to eliminate the Water Electric Charge and Wastewater Electric Charge and to increase the electric rates, fees and/or charges, was initially submitted last year but was amended to modify the surcharge rate.

"This Amendment to Petition is being filed for the purpose of simply modifying the originally proposed surcharge rate under the filing from approximately $0.0194 per kWh to $0.01369 per kWh," the docket states.

However, Docket 16-01, which contains CUC's Petition for the Establishment of a Disaster Recovery Surcharge and a Capital Improvements Surcharge, is not part of CPUC's agenda despite it being also submitted in March.

The petition "seeks the establishment of a Disaster Recovery Surcharge of $0.0145/kWh to be implemented for a one-year period and for the establishment of a Capital Improvements Surcharge of $0.0225 /kWh to be implemented for a two-year period."

"This session was put together in an expedited manner so that there is not enough time to do the full course of discovery that is part of the general process of considering a Docket for 16-01," Sirok said.

Govt employees prep for FESTPAC

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has asked for department and agency heads for proper discretion in granting administrative leave for the Festival of the Pacific Arts, or FESTPAC 2016, held from May 22 to June 4 in Guam.

Torres has sent a memo to all government agencies, encouraging participation in the fine arts and cultural traditions, the Office of the Governor said in a statement yesterday.

Torres also advised department and activity heads to use "proper discretion when handling the specific details of the administrative leave for their employees."

"He emphasize the need for proper accounting of the number of government employees who will be on the CNMI delegation on Guam," the Office of the Governor said.

The statements said the Torres administration has authorized leave for "certain government employees" for the festival.

"Since 1972, FESTPAC celebrates Pacific cultures and traditions, while brining together and estimate 2,500 performers, artists, cultural practitioners from 27 Pacific nations and territories for two weeks," Torres said in the statement yesterday.

FESTPAC is touted the cultural event of the region, gathering large numbers of Pacific peoples to share and appreciate each other's cultures.

CNMI FESTPAC organizing chair is John O. Gonzales and can be contacted at john.gonzales@gov.mp or at 285-6382 for any questions or concerns.

Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture director Angel S. Hocog can also be reached at angelshocog@gmail.com or 322-9982/3. ***(Dennis B. Chan)***

TB

From Page 1

Of the 15 cases, three involves children aged 0 to 5 years old, while the rest are adults.

Despite the number slowly inching to 2015 statistics when 28 cases were identified in the CNMI and in 2014 when there were 32 cases, CHCC officials said there is "no cause for alarm" and that they do not label this as an "uptick" or "increase."

"We can't know because we need further data because sometimes it's also seasonality, it ebbs and flows. In just measuring that, I think it will be kind of arbitrary to kind of say that by this time, its half of the year, why is it more, why is it less. As a trained epidemiologist I don't like to put my hat on that just yet," Division of Public Health Services medical director Dr. Ngoc-Phuong Luu said in a press conference held yesterday to "further educate the community."

"Part of it is surveillance. As we are looking now, we are going to find more cases and as we are screening now, we're going to find more cases," state epidemiologist Dr. Paul White said, adding that they are more active now in screening than before.

The three cases that have been identified as active are not related and there is "no epidemiological link," according to health officials.

Luu stressed that latent or "sleeping" TB has no symptoms and that individuals sometimes go years without even knowing that they have it.

"Even if you're [purified protein derivative skin test] positive on the screenings for these contacts does not mean that they had the transmission at this interval. They might have been exposed when they travelled to say Vietnam five years ago but they never knew because it's sleeping TB," Luu said.

Contact tracking

While health officials declined to disclose other information regarding the cases such as villages or schools due to privacy reasons, CHCC said they are tracking individuals who may have been exposed. They also declined to disclose if there are recent fatalities due to TB.

"In terms of contact tracking, we are diligently doing every one of them in making sure that we made contact with which eligible person who may have been exposed," Luu said.

"We have initiated that in the past several weeks. If they have not been contacted, it's because they have deemed not to be a close contact of those three active TB cases," she added.

CHCC earlier announced TB screening at Marianas High School due to possible exposure in April. Another screening was done at the school this week.

"When we talk about screening, this is entirely precautionary. It's for those who may have been exposed," White said.

'Transmission is only through respiratory droplets'

Health officials stressed that one will not be infected with TB just by casual contact, or by touching or sharing of things used by an infected person, or even by kissing or sexual activity.

"It's not transmitted through the saliva, it's transmitted through inhaling of the coughed up bacteria deep from the lungs," Luu said.

Transmission of TB is mainly through respiratory droplets (phlegm/sputum). People who are at highest risk of getting TB from a person with active TB are people who have a large amount of contact time with that person.

People are only able to give TB to others when they have active TB and are displaying symptoms of active TB such as prolonged coughing.

Children and pregnant women are at the same risk as anyone who has a close contact with someone who has symptoms of active TB.

Luu reiterated that there are two types of TB: active and latent ("sleeping" TB) and both are treatable.

While latent TB has no symptoms, active TB symptoms are prolonged coughing, coughing up blood, fever, chills, night sweats, and unintentional weight loss.

Treatment varies from six to nine months, depending on the type of TB.

While there is a vaccine for TB, Luu said its efficacy has been put to question.

"There is a type of vaccine called BCG and it has been used in a lot of low-income countries in the world, however, the efficacy is always put into question so the United States and CDC (Center for Disease Control and Prevention) does not have a guideline for initiation of BCG vaccination for the United States or its territories," Luu said.

The Chest Clinic, where screenings and medications are free, has been screening 20 to 25 people a day. The Chest Clinic may be contacted at 234-8950, extension 3515 or 3514.

LAWYER

From Page 1

and statements of Annette Basa, then his client committed no crime.

Pierce said if the point of the preliminary hearing is to determine whether a crime was likely committed and whether the defendant likely committed it, the affirmative defense negates the existence of the crime and the liability of the defendant.

"There is no reason to proceed to trial if it is likely that no one committed a crime," said Pierce in Concepcion's response to the government's opening brief on the affirmative defense issue.

Concepcion and co-defendant Deleon Guerrero have asserted an affirmative defense because they believe then that the girl they allegedly sexually assaulted was not a minor.

Pierce said the affirmative defense based upon belief dominates this case and the government knew it from the multiple interviews with the defendants and the recorded conversation with Basa.

In December 2014, Basa was slapped with a 17.5-year prison term for pleading guilty to sex trafficking of children.

Pierce said there is nothing in the record to belie a belief that the alleged victim had attained the age for sexual activity with an adult.

In fact, the lawyer said, the court does not even know her alleged age except for a hearsay statement by an Office of the Attorney General investigator.

"Before the government brings a case such as this, it must do its homework," he said.

In the government's brief, the Office of the Attorney General said the court should not allow Deleon Guerrero and Concepcion to sidestep a jury trial by permitting them to present an affirmative defense at the preliminary hearing stage.

Assistant attorney general Matthew Baisley said Deleon Guerrero and Concepcion, both seasoned police officers, are presenting the affirmative defense that they believed the 15-year-old girl was 24, 19, or 18, depending on which of their statements one chooses to believe.

At a preliminary hearing last April 22, Federal Bureau of Investigation special agent Haejun Park testified that Deleon Guerrero and Concepcion confessed during his interview that they had sex with a girl at a secluded San Antonio beach site in June 2013.

Park said Deleon Guerrero, 44, and Concepcion, 45, were surprised when he told them that the girl was a minor and was then only 15 years old.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho continued the preliminary hearing to May 9, 2016, at 1:30pm after an issue arose regarding affirmative defense.

Camacho ordered the prosecution and the defense counsel to submit briefs on the affirmative defense issue.

The issue was that "in a prosecution under 6 CMC 1303-1309, whenever a provision of law defining an offense depends upon a victim being under a certain age, it is an affirmative defense that, at the time of the alleged offense, the defendant reasonably believed the victim to be that age or older, unless the victim was under 13 years of age at the time of the alleged offense."

OAG charged Deleon Guerrero and Concepcion each with one count of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree, two counts of misconduct in public office, and two counts of conspiracy to commit sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree.

The defendants are both under house arrest after posting $15,000 and $10,000 cash bail plus property, respectively.

CASINO

From Page 1

ley, Credit Suisse, and SC Laurie also visited last week.

Regulators assume these financial institutions will help finance the casino project.

Regulators are also concerned whether the casino is on schedule to complete the Grand Mariana Casino Resort's gaming operations in Garapan as scheduled by December this year.

In this process, regulators have been informed by the casino that this project will have an estimated value of $550 million.

In turn, regulators have asked the casino how they would finance the project.

The casino has shown regulators preliminarily how their finances are secured and have raised $300 million so far, which has been used for operations.

For a large project like the Grand Mariana, regulators do not expect the casino to have the $550 million in hand and expect the casino to float a bond or go through some debt or equity financing method.

NMTI

From Page 2

to assist in the economic development of our islands is one of your top priorities, especially in the vocational, technical, and trade areas. We also understand that the Community Chest fund is available for educational and training purposes."

"…NMTI is playing a major role in providing training for our local people in numerous vocational and trades areas so they become employable in the CNMI's businesses and industries and thereby actively participate in the economic development of our islands."

38th KAN PACIFIC SAIPAN, INC. Anniversary Golf Tournament

Saturday, May 7, 2016 at Mariana Country Club
Showtime: 11:00am • Tee Off Time: 12:00pm
Format: Double Peoria Low Gross

Proceeds Will be Donated To March Againts Cancer
Banquet: 6:00 PM MRS Poolside (Guest $25)

Mariana Country Club SAIPAN ★ USA

Optional Play - $20

HOLE-IN-ONE
- **Hole #8** - **2016 Mitsubishi Lancer ES** Sponsored by Triple J Five Star Wholesale Foods and Hertz Rent A Car
- **Hole #16** - **$10,000 Cash** Sponsored by Kan Pacific Saipan, Ltd.
- **Hole #12** - **$5,000 Cash** Sponsored by Pacifica Insurance Underwriters
- **Hole #6** - **Free One Round Trip Ticket** (Japan, Hawaii or Micronesia) and $300 Delta Coupon) **Sponsored by Delta Airlines**

LONGEST DRIVE
- **Hole #4** - for Men - Two Months Free golf games plus Cash
- **Hole #4** - for Women - Two Months Free golf games plus Cash

MOST ACCURATE DRIVE (Men & Women)
- **Hole #7** - Two Months Free golf games plus Cash

NEAREST TO THE PIN
- **All Par 3 Holes (4)** - Two Months Free golf games

DOUBLE PEORIA
- **1st Place $500 Cash** Plus Two Months Free Golf Games
- **2nd Place $400** Cash Plus Two Months Free Golf Games
- **3rd Place $300** Cash Plus Two Months Free Golf Games
- **4th Place $200** Cash Plus Two Months Free Golf Games
- **5th Place $100** Cash Plus Two Months Free Golf Games

LOW GROSS - MEN
- **1st Place** - Three Months Free Golf Games plus trophy
- **2nd Place** - Two Months Free Golf Games plus trophy
- **3rd Place** One Month Free Golf Games plus trophy

WOMEN DOUBLE PEORIA
- **1st Place** - Three Months Mandi Asian Spa Membership plus Golf Bag
- **2nd Place** - Two Months Mandi Asian Spa Membership
- **3rd Place** - One Month Mandi Asian Spa Membership

Hole-In-One

HOLE #8
2016 Mitsubishi Lancer ES Sponsored by Triple J Five Star Wholesale Foods and Hertz Rent A Car

Customers First TRIPLE J FIVE STAR WHOLESALE FOODS SAIPAN · Hertz · pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. Rest Assured. · DELTA AIR LINES SKYTEAM · T&A TAKAGI & ASSOCIATES, INC. Professional Insurance Consultants · Coca-Cola · QQ CAR RENTAL · MAR PAC · IT&E Life In Motion · D&Q International Distributors A TanHoldings Company · NTT docomo DOCOMO PACIFIC

DONORS: Power 99 | Pacific Saipan | Family Outlet | Hyatt Regency | Kanoa Resort | Pacific Islands Club | Tropical Laundry | Pacific Trading | Kuriya Restautant | Korea Hardware | Pacific Home | PWS | Tournament of Champion | DFS | Ben's International | Century Hotel | Saipan Country Club | World Resort | LaoLao Bay | BH Corp | Dave Cepeda's Tent Rental

As always, Mariana Resort and Spa will host a memorable banquet to be held at 6:00pm at MR&S pool side where winners will be announced with great food and entertainment and awesome raffle prizes to celebrate another year of serving our great Commonwealth.

PHI, Hofschneider Engineering join MMAC

JON PEREZ

Hofschneider Engineering Corp. president Bill S. Hofschneider, third left, joins his staff after donating to the 2016 Marianas March Against Cancer inside their Gualo Rai office.

JON PEREZ

PHI Pharmacy vice president Bruce Cohen, second right, is flanked by members of the 2016 Marianas March Against Cancer committee and officials of the Commonwealth Cancer Association.

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

PHI Pharmacy and Hofschneider Engineering Corp. became the latest contributors to the 2016 Marianas March Against Cancer after the two companies donated $1,000 each and expressed their commitment of helping the annual community event.

PHI Pharmacy vice president Bruce Cohen said aside from their regular contributions to MMAC they also work closely with cancer patients and their families.

"We're also doing home care, where we visit patients and their families. We go beyond the medicines and make sure every aspect of our pharmacy is utilized," said Cohen.

"We are compassionate to all patients and their families since we understand what they are going through with this disease. Drugs are fine but going beyond patient care makes things easier for them," he added.

Cohen said they are also working closely with all physicians in the CNMI to make sure they have enough supply of medicines that will be dispensed to all cancer patients here in the Commonwealth.

"By all means we work with patients for their out patient medicines and at the same time build a close working relationship with doctors to make sure that we have a consistent supply of medicines," Cohen added.

Hofschneider Engineering president Bill Hofschneider said aside from monetary support they donate other resources either to the community or MMAC.

"As much as possible we think of ways on how to help. We try to donate car services to them and individuals who are in need. We want to try and utilize all our resources that we have," Hofschneider added.

Geri Dela Cruz, the 2016 MMAC overall committee chair, thanked PHI Pharmacy and Hofschneider Engineering. She even challenged Hofschneider to have a team for next year's MMAC after he and his staff wore matching company shirts.

"We are looking forward in your presence to this year's MMAC. You must be proud of having one of your employees part of the MMAC committee," said Dela Cruz.

"You should have a team for next year since you already have matching shirts," added Dela Cruz with a laugh. "The challenge is on," Hofschneider replied.

The 2016 MMAC is set on May 13 and 14 at the Hopwood Junior High School grounds in Chalan Piao.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-16-012

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF POWER DISTRIBUTION ANNUAL MATERIALS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified vendors for the Supply and Delivery of Power Distribution Annual Materials for Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **$80.00** for one IFB package set.

CUC may award a contract to more than one firm for the materials, based on bids for "Commodity Groups".

One (1) Original Hard Copy must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-16-012, Supply & Delivery of Power Distribution Annual Materials, Saipan, CNMI" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on May 19, 2016,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. *A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email to CUC Procurement & Supply Division via email address cucprocurement@cucgov.org or alternately include a CD with the copy of the submission.*

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract(s) is contingent upon the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission and the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Board of Director's approval. The contract(s) will not be executed by CUC until such approval is provided.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 2, 2016** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Joseph Crisostimo, CUC Power Division, Purchasing Technician via email joseph.crisostimo@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ GARY CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

/s/ MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-ITB-16-013

SALE AND REMOVAL OF SCRAP MATERIALS FROM THE WAREHOUSE

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is inviting interested individuals and firms to bid on CUC Scrap materials located in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Bid Package may be obtained at no charge upon registration at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and One (1) copy must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-ITB-16-013, CUC Sale & Removal of Scrap Materials from the Warehouse"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on May 26, 2016, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

Bidders must sign a Waiver of Liability, removing CUC's liability from claims resulting from violations relating to the removal and disposal of the scrap materials. CUC shall transfer and assign the scrap materials to the prospective bidder in an **"As is, Where is"** condition. By accepting the transfer and assignment, the bidder acknowledges that CUC has made no representation or warranties of the merchantability, quality, fitness, and condition of the scrap materials.

The scrap materials may be inspected by appointment only, between the hours of 9:00 AM thru 3:00 PM Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, by contacting CUC Warehouse Division at telephone no. 322-6585.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in the best interest of the CUC.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on May 13, 2016, to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Administrative Technician for Procurement via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

/s/ GARY CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

/s/ MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Teenager arrested anew for cell phone scheme

»Mother also arrested for obstruction of justice

Kainoa Shayne Wanket, a teenager who was arrested last March 16 for allegedly stealing money from a woman by deceiving her, through Facebook messages, to buy his iPhone 6 cell phone, was arrested again on Monday by victimizing another woman using the same scheme.

Wanket, 18, was taken to Superior Court yesterday for his initial court appearance on charges of theft and contempt.

Saipan Tribune learned from sources that Wanket's mother was also arrested for obstruction of justice after a police detective found them together with a former Department of Corrections officer at a house in Illiyan on Monday night.

The detective had already informed the mother last week about Wanket's arrest warrant and advised her not to hide him. The mother was set to be released Tuesday night as police conducted further investigation, sources said.

Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio imposed a $5,000 cash bail on Wanket and set the preliminary hearing for May 10 at 1:30pm.

Assistant public defender Tillman Clark was appointed as counsel for Wanket. Assistant attorney general Heather Barcinas appeared for the government.

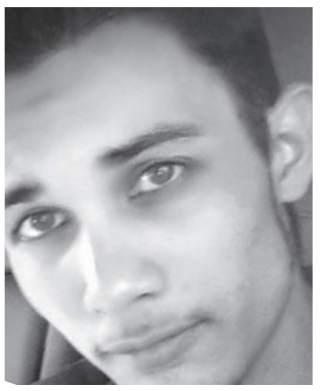
Kim-Tenorio quashed the $5,000 bench warrant that she issued against the defendant last April 26 for failing to appear at a status conference in his previous case.

Police Detective Catherine B. Pangelinan stated in her report that last April 25 a police officer responded to Twins Market in Dandan and investigated a theft complaint filed by a firefighter's wife against Wanket.

Pangelinan said the victim told the officer that earlier she was chatting with Wanket on Facebook because the latter was selling his iPhone 6s for $350.

The victim met with Wanket at Twins Market and handed the $350. Wanket never came back with the iPhone.

The victim provided the officer with Wanket's photo that she took on her cell



Wanket

phone. The officer also procured the surveillance footage of Wanket in the store and in the parking lot.

Pangelinan said that later on the same day of April 25, during an interview the victim showed Wanket's photograph that she took using her cell phone at Twins Market.

The victim stated that she was earlier looking through Saipan Buy and Sell page, where she saw Wanket was selling an iPhone 6s for $350. The victim was interested so she texted Wanket to buy the phone.

At the parking lot of Twins Market, Wanket asked for the money so he could get the car key from his uncle and take the phone from the vehicle.

The victim refused to give the money until she sees the phone. She eventually gave $350 after he assured her to trust him.

Wanket went inside the store and later came out, walking in the east direction. He never came back with the phone.

Last March 16, police arrested Wanket for stealing money from a woman using the same cell phone scheme. He was released upon posting $500.

In that previous case, Pangelinan stated in her report that a police officer responded to Han Nam Market in Koblerville to investigate a woman's complaint that Wanket stole her $180.

Pangelinan said earlier that morning, the victim was on Facebook and noticed that Wanket was selling an iPhone 6 cell phone for $200.

The victim communicated with Wanket to purchase the phone. She insisted to bring first the phone to Docomo to check if it was a stolen item. Wanket claimed through Facebook messages that there's nothing to worry about the phone.

The victim and her boyfriend met Wanket at Han Nam parking lot.

Wanket offered his driver's license to ensure that he would give the phone. He asked that the victim's boyfriend to follow him to the back of the store where his uncle's house is and where the phone is.

The victim gave $180 cash to Wanket and her boyfriend held on to his driver's license.

Wanket walked around the apartment, but never came back with the phone and money.

The victim tried to get in touch with Wanket over Facebook and phone, but he blocked her.

The victim released the information on Facebook about what Wanket did to her. The victim's friend informed her that Wanket also stole her iPhone 6 worth $1,700 and probably it was her phone that he was selling her.

Police then arrested Wanket in As Lito last March 16, but he later posted bail. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Oleai, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW-16-IFB-009

Construction of Koblerville Elementary School Open Canopy at Stage Area

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the **Construction of Koblerville Elementary School Open Canopy at Stage Area**, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **April 27, 2016** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **May 13, 2016, 9:00 a.m. local time** at the Project Site, located at Koblerville Elementary School, Koblerville, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **May 17, 2016** to **Mr. George C. Sablan, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. George C. Sablan, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked "**DPW-16-IFB-009**". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, June 01, 2016**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, June 01, 2016**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **June 01, 2016** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **June 10, 2016**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. local time, June 14, 2016**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:30 a.m. local time, on June 01, 2016.**

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (**$25,000.00**) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations §70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Gov't Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **Sixty (60) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **One Hundred (US$100.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ **PETER P. CAMACHO**
Acting Secretary of Public Works

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director of Procurement & Supply

MOTHER'S DAY
LAOLAO BAY GOLF & RESORT
"Eat all you can" Lunch Buffet
at The Grill Restaurant
with Live One Man Band

SUNDAY
MAY 8, 2016
11:00am to 2:30pm

$25.00 per person
$12.50 for kids (4-11 years old)
with Free Pool Pass

LAOLAO BAY GOLF & RESORT

We also do private parties like Birthdays, Christenings, Holy Communions, Graduations, Weddings and other special events.
"Our Pool Bash Program is still on going."

For reservations, please call us at 236-8831/29 or email us at fnb@laolaobaygolf.com

EVENING with MOM
A special evening of celebration for all wonderful Moms on the Island

$35.00 per person
Mini Buffet
Appetizer & Salad Bar / Soup, Bread & Butter / Dessert Bar

Main Entree: (Choose One)

A. Angus Rib-Eye Steak Champignon (Sizzling)
(8oz mouth watering tender juicy Angus Beef Steak with Mushroom Sauce)
B. Lobster Thermidore
(Classic Lobster Tail cooked in perfection with Mustard and Hollandaise Sauce)

(Special Mama's Caramel Custard)

PSS co-op program looking for more company partners

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Cooperative Education Program of the Public School System continues to seek partners in the Commonwealth to improve student education and training through workforce experience.

Interim cooperative education program coordinator Christopher A. Tenorio spoke at the Society for Human Resource Management-NMI Chapter monthly meeting last Thursday at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

Tenorio provided an introduction to the program and how it helps develop student core academic skills through application in real work situations. He also presented how working with the program can assist in building capacity in the youth workforce.

"The purpose of the program is to build capacity in our workforce through work-based training," Tenorio said.

"We want to make sure that the students, they don't forget the value of hard work, they don't forget the value of having a job, coming from humble beginnings and learning what it takes to get to the top," he added.

The co-op program is a student-internship program that integrates classroom instruction with planned and supervised work experience which allows students to effectively gain work experience prior to graduation.

It is composed of the on-campus Cooperative Education where students participate in completing resumes, applications, interviews, personal development, related field trips and other projects and the off-campus Cooperative Training where students gain work experience by participating as a "trainee" in a business organization.

Tenorio said close to 400 junior and senior high school students participate in the co-op program every semester and they have about 81 companies in Saipan, Tinian, and Rota who are partners in the program.

FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
Public School System interim cooperative education program coordinator Christopher A. Tenorio encouraged companies to join their Co-op Program to improve student education and training through workforce experience at the Society of Human Resource Management-NMI Chapter monthly meeting held at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan last Thursday.

They have a wide array of partners, but most of the companies are in the hotel and hospitality, food and beverage, retail, law offices, administrative work areas as well as government agencies.

"We always open our doors to different companies that come in and learn about the program," Tenorio said, "We just want to make sure, because these are youth workers, that they don't participate in hazardous work."

Marianas High School's Christine Anlinzo and Anabel Manzo shared how the co-op has helped them to discover more about the career they want to pursue in the future and encouraged companies to take part. Anlinzo worked at the DFS Galeria as the assistant of general manager, while Manzo worked at Robert Torres' law office.

"You have a chance to invest your time. You have the chance to leave a legacy, to make a mark. You have a chance to make a difference in the lives of young adults of our island for the next generation and who best to train them than our leaders now?" Anlizo, who will be going to Arizona to study business management and administration, said.

"You never know the students you take in may just be the ones who will sit on your seats later down the road," she added.

Tenorio added that education is also a community effort.

"I'm always looking for partnership. This is a collaborative effort. Education is not something that only the Public School System is responsible for. This is a community effort so I'd like to encourage companies who are interested in investing in students, companies who are interested in possibly improving the efficiency of their company to reach out to me and give me a call," Tenorio said.

LibDay Committee seeks more volunteers

The 2016 Liberation Day committee and its organizers are seeking interested individuals to volunteer for the upcoming 71st Liberation Day festivities.

June 10 is the scheduled opening date for the carnival and the parade is set for July 4.

The Liberation Day committee encourages all interested individuals to pick up an application form at the Saipan Mayors Office on Beach Road, Oleai or at the Skywalker Communications Group, LLC, Room 204, Marianas Business Plaza, Susupe. Interested volunteers may also download a PDF version from the 2016 CNMI Liberation Day Festival Facebook page.

"Volunteering is a great way to network and gain work experience while earning community service credits," said Skywalker Communications Group account director Sophia Alvarez.

"Interested volunteers will be involved in helping organize this huge and memorable event, "said Alvarez.

"Volunteering for the 2015 Liberation Day Festivities allowed me to witness and be a part of the festival grounds preparation. I learned that it takes a lot of hard work and dedication to plan and execute such a huge event," said Maria Domingo

The 2016 Liberation Day Carnival grounds will be open on June 10 and will run from 6pm to 10pm Sunday to Thursday and 6pm-11pm from Friday to Sunday.

Individuals who are interested in volunteering may submit their completed volunteer application forms to the Skywalker Communications Group, LLC office.

For more information, call the Saipan Mayor's Office at 234-6208 of the Skywalker Communications office at 234-234-7942 or email ldc-nmi@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

WHEELCHAIRS FOR THE HOSPITAL CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. officials and staff recently received eight wheelchairs from Best Sunshine International, Ltd. through its Corporate Social Responsibility team. The much-needed wheelchairs will be used in the various units of the hospital. In this photo, CHCC executives, led by chief executive officer Esther Muna, administrator Jesse Tudela, director of nursing Leslie Camacho, director of Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program Warren Villagomez, FCC Medical Director Dr. Elizabeth Kohnen, and director of Procurement and Medical Supply Stanley Iakopo are joined by BSI chief services officer Tao Xing, BSI CSR director Geri Dela Cruz, and her team.

Intoxicated man allegedly attacks father and cop

An intoxicated 20-year-old man allegedly broke several items at Aquarius Bar and Grill in District 4, Rota, pushed and yelled at his father, threw a chair at a police officer, and resisted arrest on early morning Monday.

Raymond D. Castro Jr. was flown to Saipan and taken to Superior Court yesterday afternoon for bail hearing.

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho maintained the $5,000 cash bail and set the preliminary hearing for May 4 at 1:30pm.

Assistant public defender Cindy Nesbit was appointed as counsel for Castro.

Police said Castro broke a speaker, a laptop, and two chairs—all worth $2,500.

Assistant attorney general Heather Barcinas informed the court that Castro has another active case on Rota involving another man for resisting arrest, obstructing justice, criminal mischief, minor consuming alcohol, and reckless driving.

Rota Police Detective Francis Manglona stated in his report that on Monday at 1:35am police received a call about a fight at Aquarius Bar and Grill.

Manglona said two police officers responded and observed Castro swinging a chair at his father.

Castro picked up a chair and threw it at responding police officer Ben H. Atalig, who was hit on the left leg. He picked up another chair and threw it toward the bar.

Officers Atalig and Joe Q. Camacho then calmed down Castro. Castro later started yelling at his father, and pushed and shouted at Officer Camacho.

Castro picked up another chair, but the officers subdued him. Castro kept on yelling and resisted arrest.

Manglona said during his interview later that morning, Castro said he was drinking a lot of beer with his family that night and continued drinking with his family past 12am at Aquarius Bar.

Manglona said Castro stated he does not know why got really mad and admitted throwing chairs and causing trouble. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Pew: Tuna contributes $42.2B yearly to global economy

WASHINGTON—Fishing vessels catch enough tuna to contribute more than $42 billion to the global economy annually, according to a report released yesterday by The Pew Charitable Trusts.

The report, Netting Billions: A Global Valuation of Tuna, estimates the worldwide value of the primary commercial fisheries targeting the seven most commercially important tuna species caught in 2012 and 2014. The analysis found that the amount paid to fishermen ranged from $10 billion to $12 billion a year, while the full value—including the total amount paid by the final consumer at supermarkets and restaurants around the world—was at least $42 billion in 2014.

"It's no secret that tuna are big business," said Amanda Nickson, Pew's director of global tuna conservation. "Now, for the first time, we're able to put an actual price on what's at stake in the fight for the conservation and sustainable management of these commercially and ecologically important fish.

"All told, the value of tuna is greater than the gross domestic product of at least 108 countries," Nickson added. "Given the economic gains for coastal economies connected to the commercial industry, tuna is an asset that every government should make every effort to protect."

» Report underscores need for improved management of tuna populations

The analysis also provides data by ocean region, species, and gear used to catch tuna. According to the data, the total catch in the Pacific Ocean has the highest value, estimated at $22 billion in 2014.

When the estimated value is analyzed by species, skipjack tuna—most often found in cans—is worth more than all bluefin species, but only because of the volume of skipjack caught every year. If value is considered by individual fish, bluefin is by far the most highly prized. Together, bluefin species generate at least $2 billion to $2.5 billion a year in the global marketplace.

Pew's report concludes that the value of global tuna stocks can increase if fishery managers take a comprehensive and precautionary approach to managing these populations, some of which are overfished. Scientists recently concluded that the Pacific bluefin tuna population has declined by 97.4 percent from its historic unfished levels. Likewise, bigeye tuna in the western and central Pacific have declined by 84 percent.

"Short-term economic gains often drive management decisions, but there is far more value to be found in responsible, forward-thinking management," Nickson said "The governments responsible for oversight must remove the barriers that block progress toward adopting science-based catch limits and modern management tools.

"The economic security of countless coastal communities that are home to millions of people depends on it," Nickson added.

The estimates do not include less tangible benefits from tuna, such as the value of preserving ocean ecosystems or the revenue generated by recreational activities and tourism, all of which probably would dramatically increase these species' total worth.

The report summarizes an analysis that Pew commissioned from Poseidon Aquatic Resource Management Ltd., a consulting firm based in the United Kingdom. ***(PR)***

Navy to conduct Training in Agat Bay

ASAN, Guam—The Navy will conduct training at Agat Bay May 6 from 11am to 1pm.

These trainings are designed to enhance the readiness of military personnel. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see or hear increased activity associated with the trainings.

The general public, especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators are advised to stay clear of the areas during the dates and times indicated.

Agat Bay is contained within the following coordinates: 13° 23"N/144° 35"E.

For more information, contact the Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office at (671) 349-4055/3209. ***(PR)***

TINIAN CASINO GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION
Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission (TCGCC) hereby gives notice that it will hold a Special Meeting on Thursday, May 5, 2016, at 9:00 a.m. at the TCGCC Conference Room.

AGENDA

I. **PRELIMINARY**
   a. Call to Order
   b. Roll Call
   c. Adoption of Agenda

II. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** [1]

III. **REPORTS**
   a. Chair's Report
   b. Executive Director's Report

IV. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
   a. Settlement Agreement and Mutual General Release - Myung Ja Lee & Jun Hyeon Min
   b. TCGCC Proceeding No. 15-01 [TCGCC vs. HKE & Chan, Chun Wai]

V. **NEW BUSINESS**
   a. TCGCC Proceeding No. 16-01 [TCGCC vs. HKE & Michael Kwan]

VI. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** [2]

VII. **MISCELLANEOUS/ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

VIII. **ADJOURNMENT**

[1] Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
[2] Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Commission may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

Office of the Public Auditor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Website: http://opacnmi.com
1236 Yap Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

DEADLINE APPROACHING FOR FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE FILING

This is to remind all individuals who may be required to file OPA Form EC-101, the Statement of Financial Interest, that the **deadline for filing without penalty is May 31, 2016.** The filing of this form, including a Notary's verification, covers calendar year 2015 and is required by the Government Ethics Code (1 CMC § 8501, et seq.). Any person failing to comply with the financial disclosure requirement of this law is subject to financial and other penalties, including a **$10 per day fine** for any periods of delinquency.

The following individuals are required to file a Statement of Financial Interest:

- Each elected Commonwealth official.
- Each appointed Commonwealth or judicial officer, including department Secretaries, Directors and their deputies, regular or acting members of Boards, Commissions and Task Forces.
- Each public employee who received additional compensation in calendar year 2015 either for professional services they may have rendered or as an independent contractor for any government agency of the Commonwealth.

You may obtain forms from several sources including the Office of the Public Auditor (OPA), located on Capitol Hill at 1236 Yap Drive (phone 322-6481/2), or you may download the required form from OPA's web site at www.opacnmi.com. Also, notary services needed in verifying the form is available at OPA free of charge.

For more information, please visit or call OPA; or contact OPA via e-mail at mail@opacnmi.com.

BANK OF SAIPAN
Marianas Pride

Statement of Financial Condition
(at the close of business December 31, 2015)
(in thousands of dollars)

ASSETS	2015
Cash and due from banks	$ 18,253
Interest bearing deposits in other banks	$ 200
Investment securities	$ 680
Loans (net)	$ 10,740
Accrued interest receivable	$ 70
Other assets	$ 447
Premises and equipment (net)	$ 477
Foreclosed real estate (net)	$ 7
Total Assets	$ 30,874
Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity	
Deposits:	
Non-interest bearing	$ 16,713
Interest bearing	$ 8,750
Total deposits	$ 25,463
Accrued interest payable	$ 43
Accrued expenses and other liabilities	$ 155
Total Liabilities	$ 25,661
Shareholders Equity:	
Common Stock	$ 2,510
Additional paid in capital	$ 6,077
Accumulated deficit	$ (818)
Treasury stock	$ (2,556)
Total Stockholders' Equity	$ 5,213
Total Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity	$ 30,874

audited financial statements are available for review at the Office of Director of Banking

WHERE CAN
YOUR CAREER TAKE YOU?

DFS

EXCITING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES WITH DFS SAIPAN

INVENTORY CONTROL COORDINATOR

WE ARE LOOKING FOR DYNAMIC INDIVIDUALS WHO STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE AND VALUE INTEGRITY AND TEAM WORK TO FILL THE FOLLOWING POSITION. VERY COMPETITIVE SALARY AND BENEFITS PACKAGES ARE OFFERED. SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES WILL HAVE A HIGH LEVEL OF PROFESSIONALISM AND INTERPERSONAL SKILLS, AND BE VERY COMFORTABLE WORKING COLLABORATIVELY ACROSS TEAMS. THEY WILL BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN A FLEXIBLE WORK SCHEDULE AND TRAVEL FOR BUSINESS WHEN NEEDED. ENGLISH + LANGUAGE SKILLS IN KOREAN, JAPANESE OR MANDARIN PREFERRED; LUXURY & INTERNATIONAL RETAIL EXPERIENCE A PLUS.

DUTIES INCLUDE

DRIVE, ASSIST AND MANAGE STOCKTAKES AND COUNT
ASSIST WITH REGULAR INVENTORY COUNTS INCLUDING PRE-COUNTS
ENSURE TRANSFER CUT-OFF DATES ARE FOLLOWED
FOLLOW UP ON DAILY STOCK DELIVERY DISCREPANCIES
CONTROL MANUAL TRANSFER FORMS, WRITE-OFF FORMS, DELIVERY DISCREPANCY REPORT. SYSTEM INPUT OF LOCATION-TO-LOCATION TRANSFERS
AUDIT, PROCESS, SORT, COUNT AND TRANSFER OUT MERCHANDISE FOR PENDING REVERSE LOGISTICS AND INTER-DIVISION TRANSFERS

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT & TO APPLY FOR THE POSITION:
VISIT: WWW.DFSGROUP.COM/DFS-CAREERS
CONFIDENTIAL CONTACT: ESTHER ADA, HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER, ESTHER.ADA@DFS.COM, 670.236-2510.
APPLICATION CLOSING DATE IS MAY 13, 2016.

THE TRAVELER'S LUXURY DEPARTMENT STORE

ABU DHABI | AUCKLAND | BALI | CAIRNS | GUAM | HAWAII | HONG KONG | JAKARTA
LOS ANGELES | MACAU | MEDAN | MUMBAI | NEW DELHI | NEW YORK | OKINAWA
PALAU | SAIPAN | SAN FRANCISCO | SINGAPORE | SYDNEY

DFSGROUP.COM

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXVI, Issue No. 88

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

MARGULIES
©2016 CAGLE NEW YORK
www.jimmymargulies.com
She's got nothing but the women's card. If she wasn't a woman, no one would support her!
TRUMP

EDITORIAL

Will Hoosiers save Ted Cruz?

In the second round of the NCAA men's basketball tournament a few weeks ago, Texas A&M was in a hopeless spot, trailing Northern Iowa by 12 points with just 44 seconds remaining. Everyone knew A&M was done for. But the Aggies staged a stunning rally, sending the game into overtime, where they came out on top.

Fans—particularly those in Iowa—learned then that victory can be elusive even when it looks certain. Ted Cruz, who like the Aggies is from Texas, needs a dramatic surprise to have a real chance of winning the Republican nomination for president. But at least until Indiana votes on Tuesday, it's too early to assume Donald Trump has the nomination wrapped up.

Plenty of observers, of course, are eager to pronounce him the GOP winner so they can get on to obsessing about the general election. Trump himself, with a comfortable lead in the Indiana polls, shares that impulse.

But this campaign has upended assumptions time and again. Polls had Bernie Sanders down by double digits in Michigan shortly before the primary—but he won. One survey showed that 20 percent of Indiana Republicans were still undecided as of last week. If Cruz does a better job than Trump does of getting his supporters to turn out, he could pull off an upset and revive his chances in delegate-rich states such as California and New Jersey.

That would greatly strengthen Cruz's bid to keep Trump from gaining a majority of votes on the first ballot at July's convention in Cleveland. In subsequent rounds, more and more delegates would be free to vote their own preferences—meaning Trump delegates could jump to Cruz, who has done better than his rival at winning over many of them.

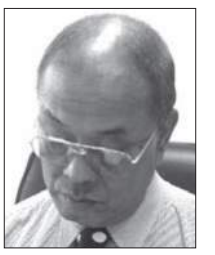
Trump won Arizona easily, which means all 58 of its delegates are obligated to support him on the first ballot. But the delegates themselves are chosen by a state convention, and Cruz managed to fill most of the slots with his people—who could switch their votes on a second ballot. Trump won 17 delegates in Virginia's primary, to eight for Cruz, but Cruz snared 10 of 13 at-large delegates chosen by the Virginia state party convention.

Even delegates officially committed to Trump may be open to defection. Wall Street Journal columnist Kimberley Strassel reports, "Sources suggest to me that of the 950 'Trump' delegates, as many as half despise the former reality-TV star. Meaning that of the 2,472 delegates slated for Cleveland, maybe one-quarter currently want him as the nominee." Many fear that he would not only lose in November but, with his views of women and immigrants, would taint the party for years to come.

And that phrase "officially committed to Trump" is under review: Strassel notes how some delegates argue that under a 1980 rules change, they cannot be "bound" to any candidate on any round of balloting—including the first. If that or some other rule wrinkle formally emerges between now and voting at the convention, it wouldn't take many defections or abstentions to derail the Trump express and open the door to Cruz, John Kasich or another candidate.

See will on Next Page

Saludu Para Si Nana



By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

Hu pasensiaye umesplikaye gi ti mapot na eskalera na i asuntu pot hineñge gi Saina. `Nai un` aksepta i Saina gi ha`animu ya un` pega inañgoghomu enteramente gi disposisioña, guiya ennau añklan espirituat. Ni u fattu chubasku ti u lailai galaidemu sa` esta un` añkla fitme gi sagaña. Siempre diariu un` fanayuyot parehu ha` ginagau bendision yan agradesimientu.

Kada tautau difirensiau manera `nai ha embrasa añklan espirituat. Gi uttimu besis siempre u esgaihon halom i ayudun i Saina.

Guaha makat sinesedihu gi uttimon ochenta siha na sakan ni bumirayu` tatte gi Saina. Hu appelayu` lokue` bendision gi as Santa Maria ginen i sumen sinantusan na dos patman kanaiña.

Felis yan katma karerahu desde ayu na tiempu. I Saina gachoñghu diariu. I mames yan gloriosa na nanahu as Santa Maria numana`eyu` katma, minesñgon, pinasensia, silensiu yan hinimidde. Añklan espirituat!

Karera: I pañgpañg napun linala` un` klase ha` `nai ni unu soplu. Siempre un` falag un` bandan katsada `an maliñgu hau gi kareramu. Un` halom gi kañada `nai siña lokue` maliñgun ñaihon hau estake siña un` soda` tatte manana na kandet i señgsoñg.

Guaha siña un` tulaika lau los dimas esta monhayan ha dispone todu desde tutuhon i tanu`. Yangin ilegmu na mifuetsa hau, pues chage fan tumulaika dineku` atdau desde sanhaya esta sanlagu. Este na puntu `nai un` lili`e manu china nina` siñan tautau. Un` mafañagu, la`la` yan dispues madispone. Tatnai huli`e mana atlibes este na disposision.

Usun MJ: Fuera de asukat, i agaga` na patte gi haga` i tautau ti komprendiyon haf` na umayuyunat chumochu naturat na asukat ni mafanana`an "insulin".

Unu gi dos muna` para mayamag asukat man-dañkulu ni siña dispues hana setbe tatautau-ta malimiendan hinemlo`ta.

Masoda` gi estudiun un` grupon tautau ni umu`usa marijuana na menos probleman haga` niha kumanu` asukat naturat. Mas lokue` menos chansan niha daibites sa` mangai ganas mañochu. Inafuetsas i haga chumopchup naturat na asukat.

Ti hu u`usa este na attifisiu lau yangin mauleg sineda` estudiu dispues, sa hafa na para ta ñega gi numesessita. Haf` este `nai humalom fakterian amot siha ya ha lachai muna` tailaye usun niyog. Pa`gu, tat ti umatitisa na paire na patte gi homlu` na neñkanu`. `An baba, pues hagas ha punu` tautau isla siha gi enteru Pasifiku. Lau miyon na kepblen niha maprotetehe`! Chechu miron!

Pot reputasion marijuana mina` mamapot machoneg mas estudiu. Lau siempre uma-estudia mas haf` na taiguine na modun benefisiu yan ayudu mafattu gi mandaibites siha giya America. I kuestion: kau marijuana i sigiente amot para mandaibites gi enteru elmundo? Ti namanman `an uttimoña makonfitma na huñgan propiu na klasen usu para mandaibites.

'Chalan Iya Hame'

Tat ti chumage kumefunas rasan Chamorro desde tiempun Español. Mattu gi tai respetu España yan Amerika `nai umabende tanu` yan tautau Guahan. Na ti mantautau i Chamorro?

Kasse ti masupone na siempre u fan dañkulu famaguon natibu `nai matutuhon makuestioña anaku` na tratamientun esklabu yan kau este futtunan famaguon niha?

Masusesede este pa`gu giya Guahan. Banidosu-yu` na mumetgot sentimientun natibu umebalua haf` masusede yan mañgge, gi finu` un` kanta, "chalan iya hame".

I hinalom dañkulu na planun militat yan nina` halom mas pine`lu (investment) gi industrian bisita, dos napu` este ni fuetsau tumulaika modun linala` trañkilu na soñgsoñg siha. Haf` binabaña hihot yan mauleg na amesta entalu` natibu gi señgsoñg? Baba bendision ginen as Tan Maria yan Tun Jose? Na ti patte este gi kutturan natibu? Baba i pas yan trañkilu na linala` natibu gi lugat niha?

Mattu prontu i tiempu `nai i natibu debi u tutuhon fumaisengue` haf` siñienteña gi futtunan famaguon niha. Tai bali i adelantun militat yan industrian bisita yangin para umakontinua mafa` konbiniente na katsu i natibu! Siha i mames na fruta, i natibu lamas yan `ansobla! Mauleg uma-ebalua i kareran yan futtunan natibu!

Asuntun Hineñgge: Ha faisenyu` un` ñietu haf` kumeke ilegña "añklan espirituat". Para hinebeña satton na patgon gi bandan relihion. Lau gada` para u komprende haf` finaiseña.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Why are we still confining animals in zoos?

By JOHN M. CRISP
Tribune News Service

John M. Crisp, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, teaches in the English Department at Del Mar College in Corpus Christi, Texas. Readers may send him email at jcrisp@delmar.edu.

The tiger is an awesome beast.

I don't use "awesome" here in the modern, informal sense that we apply casually to anything that we think is extremely good, including TV shows and lunch.

Rather, the tiger is awesome in the traditional sense described in this online definition: "extremely impressive or daunting; inspiring great admiration, apprehension, or fear."

This sense of the word connects us to a distant evolutionary past when tigers, lions, bears and crocodiles were vital elements of the dangerous wilderness that surrounded us. They were supreme predators, and we had good reason to fear them.

But we also respected and admired them. Sometimes we adopted their fangs and claws as sacred totems to help us appropriate some of their power. Sometimes killing them became a rite of passage and a proof of manhood.

Mostly, though, habitat destruction and high-powered weapons have beaten these formidable animals into retreat. Occasionally, in places where civilization rubs up against the wilderness, a human is killed by a wild animal, but it's a rear-guard action at the border of these predators' steadily diminishing territory.

Still, some of the primordial fear and awe was awakened on April 15, when lead tiger keeper Stacey Konwiser was killed at the Palm Beach Zoo by a 13-year-old Malayan tiger.

Reportedly Konwiser was devoted to the well-being of the tigers in her care. A zoo spokeswoman said, "She loved tigers … They spoke to each other in a language that only they could understand."

Deaths such as Konwiser's and Dawn Brancheau's, who was killed at SeaWorld in 2010 by the orca Tilikum, are comparatively rare. But they remind us that the notion that we can entirely understand these beasts is highly suspect, based on the mistaken and unexamined belief that their captivity is an arrangement that is cooperative and mutual. It's not.

And these deaths ought to make us pause to consider whether in the 21st century we should still be confining behind bars animals such as lions and tigers, naturally free-ranging predators whose existence makes sense only in the natural habitat into which they evolved.

Of course we have our reasons for doing so. We imagine that the opportunity to view animals in a pseudo-natural habitat will educate us and perhaps make us more concerned about the well-being of threatened species.

Sometimes we profess the "lifeboat" theory, the idea that as their natural environments diminish, species can be preserved for future generations in zoos and wildlife parks. Sometimes we even refer to captive animals as "ambassadors from their wild brethren."

But these rationales sound pretty bogus. No animal can be an ambassador from a place it's never been and has no hope of going. And if we've created serious habitat problems for species as a whole, it seems cruel to try to solve them at the expense of individual animals.

No, I suspect that if we were genuinely honest about it, we'd see that the confinement of magnificent predators such as lions, tigers, killer whales and dolphins is mostly for our amusement. And since we're willing to pay for it, putting animals behind bars serves a profit motive.

Animal confinement is an ancient practice; at one time no worthy nobleman was without his own menagerie. As a rule, the lives of captive beasts were squalid and miserable, but zoos have evolved in a much more humane direction since the days when tigers spent all of their time in cramped cages.

Maybe it's time to take this enlightenment a step further. Commendably, SeaWorld has agreed to stop breeding orcas in captivity and forcing them to perform. Ringling Brothers has retired its performing elephants to a refuge in Florida. Catalonia banned bullfighting in 2010. Walmart and other corporations are selling only cage-free eggs and chickens.

These positive steps are largely the result of pressure from consumers. Perhaps the animal confinement industry would respond to the public's acceptance of the notion that the magnificence and awe of predators in the wild can never be duplicated in captivity. And that the attempt to do so comes at considerable cost to individual animals.

Now, that would be awesome, indeed.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Sixto Igisomar for retirees?

If you believe in the tooth fairy. Just recently during a Settlement Fund update to the Senate by its trustee, Joyce Tang, Sen. Sixto Igisomar dared to demean her performance and question her ability. This from a failed chairman of the bankrupt Fund not known for his expertise in high finance but only for once being a politically appointed favorite of an impeached and convicted ex-governor. So let's be very clear. When the now senator was the chairman of the NMI Retirement Fund (including Alvaro Santos) years ago, it was he, its legal counsel Viola Alepuyo, and administrator Richard Villagomez who blatantly bankrupted the Fund. How so? To understand their incompetence let's go back about a decade. And we'll label them the "Four" with all its permutation.

The Gravy train: The Retirement Fund, fat and sassy, sat with a nearly half-billion dollars, was gleefully lavishing out monies to friends, families, the politically-connected and never mind paying it back, gachong. Such lawmakers, beneficiaries, family, friends, politicos, and team Fitial all vying to gorge themselves on the loot. The monies belonging to the really needy contributors were "stolen" and the "poorer" retirees and those still employed in the government were "robbed." The central government, recipient of all the employers' and agencies pay-ins, greedily clung to the contributions for its own corrupt agenda. After many years of its non-contributions to NMIRF, however, central defaulted and soon owed over $325 million. Yet retirees blindly continued to pay-in kamikaze style.

How, you ask, could the above mentioned "Four" of Sixto-Viola-Richard-Alvaro cabal foul-up? They and past rogues gallery of Fund officials and political appointees will remain guilty of the answer.

Defrauding us: Before the enactment of the 2011 Beneficiary Derivative Act the Fund was well beyond its breaking-point and the incompetent trustees and officials still couldn't get it right. The Fund, the prima facie of how horribly managed the entire government is, set the pace. With the cancelled contracts by financial consultants, money managers, the actuary, and inhouse trustees and counselors quitting their jobs, the Fund keeled over: wildcat law suits from anybody ensued. How did all of the above happen? The Four's onerous mismanagement and indulgent lawmaking.

The giveaways: Here's a Keystone Cop history if the Fund's debacle tenure of the Sleep-walking-four.

Picture this: for every dollar owed to beneficiaries only 36 cents was funded. Millions of dollars were already been paid out in "survivor benefits" to last-minute adoptees (children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and select relatives) even after the original retirees long passed away. Meaning, for every dollar the Fund owed to beneficiaries 66 cents went unfunded, lost to those undeserving beneficiaries.

Declining assets: There stood around 6,000 active and retired contributors while liabilities marched-on with the increasing retirement of other retirees. Now get this: By May 2011 the damage stood at $911 million. What? Is this any way to run a government? This continued to happen with retirees—and undeserving beneficiaries who receive benefits without even paying into the Fund—firmly lodged in the happy times, old Defined Benefit Plan. Everybody blamed anybody and nobody did anything wishing for a miracle, even the Confused-Four.

Enter Bruce Jorgensen: This once-from-here attorney fled the island and then sued the NMIRF. Unbelieving, the Gang of Four and other local "politically correct" luminaries piled on and threatened him. He persevered. His actions put into motion the series of events that saved the retirees lifelong penury. The Spooked-four vowed to doom Bruce. [They lost]

Merrill Lynch: About this time incompetent Fund management and board [the Four] trusted this agency investing the Fund's monies, until it was caught cheating, Of course ML denied the "allegations" for several years, so did the Believing-Four. October 2015: Merill Lynch finally admitted their crime and was dinged &7.35 million.

Betty Johnson's Gang of Four: How to plunder the payroll legally. Attorneys Bruce Jorgensen, Margery Bronster (along with Robert Hatch), a local Stephen Woodruff, and another add-on from afar, Timothy Lord. And so what if others throw mud pies its who gets most of the Fund's loot first that really counts, right? And why quibble over a few millions, anyway? Give us $40.73 million, they harped a couple years later.

Fitial's folly: It's the bumper-bellies fault. During Governor Fitial's first-term in what seems like ages ago, he implemented the now infamous austerity cutbacks because the government was running broke And it got worse. Mass termination of government employees loomed. People panicked. I will make it right with a pension obligation fund, to rebuild the fund after I/your government stops paying in its fair share to the NMIRF, sayeth the governor. A couple of months at the most (PL 15-15) and you can trust me. The people, the lawmakers, the happy-four did.

Throw the bums out: So Betty Johnson whacked the Fund. Then three plaintiff retirees Roman T. Tudela, Mariano Taitano, and Patricia Guerrero sued Merrill Lynch and they also sued the Fund's politically appointed board of directors for, among other things, incompetence. But wait. Sixto Igisomar and other board members counter-sued them to save their own political fannies. Lucky for Viola Alepuyo and Igisomar they weren't sent to prison: in the final settlement agreement the lawsuit against them was dismissed, with prejudice.

Don't blackball us: In any real corporation the Fund's board members and officials would've been fired or jailed forthwith for bankrupting NMIRF and banned from holding government office ever again. But not in this corrupt cesspool called the CNMI government. Thus, instead of firing his protégé, duly embarrassed (then) governor Fitial promoted them, swiftly moving Viola Alepuyo to takeover the Office of the Attorney General. That effort failed however. He also hurriedly appointed Sixto Igisomar to head the Commerce department which, luckily, he didn't bankrupt during his short tenure. Where are they today? Viola is the counsel for the $7.1-billion Best Sunshine casino development and in November she was appointed as the CNMI civilian aide to the Secretary of the U.S. Army. As for Sixto before becoming the freshmen senator in the 19th Legislature, as the chair for the initial gaming commission he hustled the approval of Best Sunshine's exclusive casino license. Today, without a doubt he/they continue to conspire with other (GOP) cohorts to commit more incompetence and crimes. It goes to prove, screwing up is not a crime if you don't get caught.

Up for sale: The primary qualification for being a politically appointed official and lawmaker, as with Sixto, who hotly desires to be re-elected. Why? Less to continue the appearance of being a community "leader" but more to cash-in on the newest gravy train in town the casino. After being a protégé of Fitial he understands that to make it work he must first cast blame upon the Settlement trustee Tang to hide his guilt for bankrupting the Fund. And that applies to the majority of greedy lawmakers and officials salivating to get their cut of the loot before it ends. Fraud, bribery, payoffs and kickbacks? Life is good as long as we concerned citizens forget all of the above.

Lee Andersen
Chalan Kanoa

WILL

From Page 10

But that's getting ahead of Tuesday's voting. A big loss in Indiana might induce most party leaders and delegates to decide that Trump is inevitable—and that a contested convention, which could shatter the party, is too risky to allow. If he intends to provide a plausible alternative, Cruz probably has to win Indiana.

Do Hoosiers want the race to continue?

Do they want to improve the Republican Party's dwindling opportunity to have someone other than Donald Trump as its nominee?

They can make it happen.

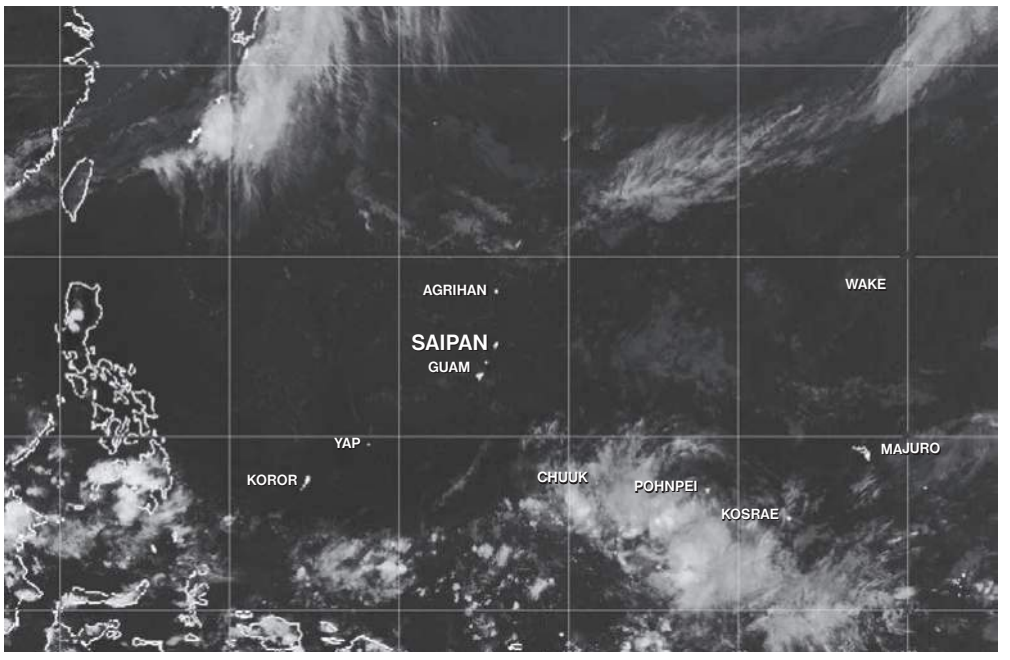
©2016 *Chicago Tribune*

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00 PM, TUESDAY, MAY 3, 2016
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A stationary front extends southwestward from 25N162E to north of the Marianas at 20N146E to 21N140E to 22N137E. Cloudiness and scattered showers are present along and up to 250 miles north of the front including Minami-torishima Island. A trade-wind disturbance is producing scattered showers well southwest of Wake Island between 15N and 12N from 155E to 161E. A weak surface trough extends from 2N136E to 2N155E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring within 100 miles of a line from 2N135E to 3N146E to just south of Chuuk at 7N152E to southwest of Pohnpei at 4N157E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of Pohnpei and Kosrae south of a line from 6N157E to 3N167E. A trade-wind disturbance is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms east of a line from 9N171E to Majuro to 5N177E to EQ177E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼79
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲89	▼79
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲92	▼79
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼80
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼80
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼81
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼80

Around the Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲74	▼59
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲83	▼53
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲82	▼76
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲85	▼72
London	Sunny	▲63	▼45
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲77	▼55
Manila	Mostly Sunny	▲98	▼79
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲66	▼53
Miami	Thundershowers	▲86	▼68
New York	Showers	▲56	▼51
Osaka	Sunny	▲74	▼61
Paris	Sunny	▲66	▼44
Pusan	Windy	▲75	▼51
Rome	Sunny	▲76	▼53
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲74	▼51
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲64	▼52
Seoul	Windy	▲70	▼46
Tokyo	Rain	▲76	▼62
Washington, DC	Showers	▲66	▼52

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

6:21 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
12:55 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
6:53 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:52 AM	6:35 PM
Thursday	5:52 AM	6:36 PM
Friday	5:51 AM	6:36 PM
Saturday	5:51 AM	6:36 PM
Sunday	5:51 AM	6:36 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	3:33 AM	4:00 PM
Thursday	4:22 AM	5:01 PM
Friday	5:13 AM	6:03 PM
Saturday	6:07 AM	7:06 PM
Sunday	7:02 AM	8:09 PM

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769.
E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 2, 2016

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

OZ1077	4:40am	7:10am	Daily
DL297	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ1157	4:00am	6:40am	1, 4

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2924/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	Daily via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2922/193	8:40am	10:35pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA2921/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/193	1:30pm	10:35pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA2921/191	1:30pm	8:55am+1	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA2920/193	2:20pm	10:35pm	2 via GUM-ROR
UA2920/191	2:20pm	8:55am+1	2, 6 via GUM
UA2928/191	6:05pm	8:55am+1	1, 2, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2926/191	9:50pm	8:55am+1	1, 2, 5, 6 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2922/159	8:40am	9:55pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2921/159	1:30pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/159	2:20pm	9:55pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA2920	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily
OZ1078	9:25pm	1:45am+1	Daily

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ1167	9:55pm	2:20am+1	3, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/2927	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA190/2929	9:55am	9:20pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/2925	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA192/2920	9:45pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM-Rota
UA192/2927	9:45pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA192/2929	9:45pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/2925	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2920	11:30pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	11:30pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2929	11:30pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA116/2925	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2921	9:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA116/2920	9:55pm	1:50pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA116/2927	9:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2929	9:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure;ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Palau losing Jellyfish Lake namesake

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—The big question at Palau's Jellyfish Lake: Where are all the jellyfish?

Part of a UNESCO World Heritage area, the saltwater lake has long been a source of wonder for tourists, who have delighted in snorkeling among the millions of golden jellyfish that can fill the water as thick as corn chowder. But some tourists in recent weeks have struggled to find even a single jellyfish, prompting at least one tour operator to suspend its trips.

Scientists blame a severe drought, coupled with hotter temperatures caused by the El Nino weather pattern, a warming of parts of the Pacific Ocean that changes weather worldwide and tends to push up global temperatures.

While scientists say there's every chance jellyfish numbers will rebound when conditions improve, they also worry that global warming poses a long-term threat to the delicate ecosystem of Palau, a tiny western Pacific island chain.

About a month ago, scientists at Palau's Coral Reef Research Foundation estimated the numbers of golden jellyfish at the lake had declined from about 8 million to 600,000. Since then, the numbers have dropped further.

AP

In this Dec. 9, 2014, photo, golden jellyfish swim in Jellyfish Lake in Palau. Part of a UNESCO World Heritage area, the saltwater lake has long been a source of wonder for tourists, who have delighted in snorkeling among the millions of golden jellyfish which can fill the water as thick as corn chowder.

"Just the past couple of weeks, the numbers have drastically declined," said Collin Joseph, a coastal manager for Palau's Koror State. He said the adult jellyfish have pretty much died out completely, while some juveniles remain.

The decline is particularly concerning because the jellyfish in the lake are a unique subspecies that have developed in isolation from their lagoon ancestors.

Koror State Governor Yositaka Adachi last week decided to keep the lake open, at least for now. He said in a statement that rainfall in the area over the past four months was the lowest in 65 years, but that there remained enough polyps, which produce jellyfish, to ensure the population could eventually recover.

But some aren't waiting for that.

"Many tour companies including ours that have been taking guests to the lake have not seen any jellyfish," Sam's Tours wrote in an April 22 note to its sales partners. "We at Sam's Tours have therefore decided to suspend our tours to Jellyfish Lake with immediate effect until further notice."

Scientists are still trying to figure out exactly how the hot and dry conditions are affecting the jellyfish. Governor Adachi wrote that the lack of rain had reduced runoff into the lake, which had affected the tiny plants and animals the jellyfish consume.

The Coral Reef Research Foundation also noted the lack of rain had caused the lake to become saltier than ever previously recorded, in monitoring which dates back to 1998.

"The exact cause of the decline in the population of golden jellies is not yet understood, but it is clear at present that young (jellyfish) are not surviving very long after release by the bottom-dwelling polyp stage," the foundation wrote in an April Facebook post. It added: "The golden jelly population could be on the verge of crashing" to the point where there were no more swimming about the lake.

The foundation noted the population had crashed once before, in 1999, but had rebounded 18 months later because some polyps had survived.

Jellyfish Lake is unusual in being a small body of seawater surrounded by land. Channels to the sea remain deep in the limestone rock beneath the lake. Below about 13 meters (40 feet), the lake has little oxygen and high concentrations of hydrogen sulfide, making it dangerous for scuba divers. Due to their isolation from the ocean, five marine lakes in the area have produced five different subspecies of golden jellyfish.

Scientists say a common myth about the jellyfish in the lake is that they don't sting, when in fact they can give swimmers a mild sting, which can be compounded by prolonged exposure.

Los Angeles-based photographer and model Amber Arbucci discovered that in 2013, when she completed a 7-hour naked photo shoot in the lake for her collection "The Girl at Jellyfish Lake."

"I was so stung my eyes were swollen and I could barely walk," she told The Wall Street Journal.

She wrote on her website, however, that she still found the jellyfish filled with charm—"powerful, and yet so fragile all at the same time."

Film screening on traditional Chamorro healing this Saturday

The public is cordially invited to a screening of a new documentary film on traditional Chamorro healing by Dr. Tricia A. Lizama this Saturday, May 7, in Room D-1 at Northern Marianas College. The screening starts at 6pm.

Dr. Lizama's film, "Å*mot Para I Hinemlo'ta*," will explore Chamorro traditional medicine and healing in the Northern Mariana Islands, a cultural practice that dates back thousands of years.

Lizama

Å*mot* is often used by the people of the Marianas to refer to medicine or an herb but it has a different meaning when used as a verb. *Para I Hinemlo'ta* means "for recovery and restoration of our health."

The film examines the current state of this ancient cultural practice through interviews with knowledgeable practitioners on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian including the similarities and differences among the islands.

The film also explores the challenges confronting the perpetuation of traditional healing and how it can be reinvigorated and perpetuated for the continuing benefit of the indigenous community.

Lizama, an assistant professor in the School of Nursing and Social Work at the University of Guam, is a descendant of a traditional healer and a mother of six who has spent the past five years researching this subject.

She is also the chair of *Inetnon Yo'amte*, an organization whose mission is to preserve, protect and perpetuate traditional Chamorro healing.

The film was funded in part by a grant from the Northern Marianas Humanities Council. The screening is open to the public and free of charge.

For more information, please contact Humanities Council staff at 235-4875. ***(PR)***

AMP grounds finally reopens for public

American Memorial Park grounds have been cleared and repaired, and are now open to the public for use 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Although there has been significant clearing and repair of park facilities and grounds since Typhoon Soudelor the park is not completely back to pre-typhoon conditions. However, the park is now ready for nighttime use. It is recommended that nighttime park users carry and use a flashlight.

The public is further advised for their safety to look out for hazards and pay close attention to closure/warning signs. A small area north of Micro Beach is still closed to the public. Small areas of broken sidewalk exist and should be avoided.

Please help your fellow park users stay safe. Report all emergencies to 911. To reach a law enforcement park ranger call 234-7207, 2008. To reach Saipan Department of Public Safety call 664-9001.

For more information or questions on park facilities or programs, visit www.nps.gov/amme or visit or call park rangers at the American Memorial Park Visitor Center at 234-7207. ***(PR)***

Triple J team walks 5K in support of Red Cross

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Triple J Saipan team poses for a group photo after taking part 30th Annual Red Cross Walk-a-Thon last Saturday.

The Triple J Saipan team participated in the 30th Annual Red Cross Walk-a-Thon last Saturday, April 30. Despite slight showers throughout the morning, the Triple J team of 23 participants walked the 5-kilometer course.

"It was a pleasure to get out there and participate with my Triple J family. It was wonderful to experience with others who are also doing something healthy for a great cause, it's amazing to see." Perry Inos Jr. said after the event.

This was the first year for Triple J to walk as a team in the Walk-a-Thon that saw thousands of participants. Way more than walking, the event had healthy food cooking demonstrations, blood pressure checks, and flu shot stations.

In addition to participating in the walk, Triple J donated $1,000 in pledges to the Red Cross, which goes toward helping those still affected by Typhoon Soudelor. ***(PR)***

Superior Court gets funds to upgrade equipment

Joseph M. Diego, USDA Area II director, recently visited the CNMI Superior Court offices where he saw new computer hardware in use that had been funded by a Rural Development Community Facilities Impact Grant. The grant allowed for the installation of faster running work station computer equipment and provided for the migration away from the obsolete Windows XP operating system which the Clerks' office had been using.

Systems Administrator Michael Villacrusis conducted the facilities tour and equipment demonstration. CNMI Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio, chairperson of the Judiciary's Federal Grant Committee noted, "A small team of people dedicated a part of their time over the last year to the writing and submission of grants which provided needed capital equipment the Judiciary was otherwise unable to afford, given its restrictive budget. We certainly appreciate the help of Joseph Diego and Anthony Barcinas of the USDA Guam office in obtaining this assistance."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Systems administrator Michael Villacrusis, Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio, clerk of the Superior Court Patrick V. Diaz, Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro, USDA Area Director Joseph Diego, Associate Justice Perry B. Inos, and Deputy Clerk Kristy N. Diaz.

Superior Court Clerk of Court Patrick V. Diaz manages the busy department, which was the beneficiary of the new equipment's installation. The chief justice commented that "the new computers improve the efficiency of our staff and the use of the court's hearings scheduling system. Our concern about the insecure nature of the old Windows XP system, its susceptibility to malware invasion, and potential negative impact on our records system has been eliminated. Thank you USDA." ***(PR)***

Hawaiians launch year-round 'Vote to Rise' campaign

KAPOLEI, Hawaii—The Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA) has hired Ms. Jordyn Danner, a homesteader and former educator to manage its statewide Vote to Rise campaign to implement an intense year-round civic engagement program through more than 50 of its Native Hawaiian member organizations.

Awarded a five-year commitment in funding by a private foundation on the continent, coupled with local funder matching dollars, CNHA will embark on a year-round initiative to increase voter registration and "Get Out the Vote" in Hawaii elections.

"Our Vote to Rise campaign is really an extension of the voter registration efforts we have been building capacity to do for the last 10 years," said Michelle Kauhane, CNHA President. "We now have a pool of dedicated resources not just to register voters in the heat of big elections, but every month and every year, and most importantly, to engage our coalition of member organizations and partners located everywhere across the state."

Danner

Danner, a graduate of Kapa'a high school on Kauai and Midland Lutheran College in Nebraska, has spent the last 13 years in educational institutions focused on native children. She leaves the Native Hawaiian Kanuikapono Public Charter School in Anahola after three years to lead the CNHA 'Vote to Rise' campaign.

"I'm very excited to take on this new challenge and role serving our native communities," Danner said. "I've grown up and worked in native communities here at home and abroad, and we need more in my generation to take up our kuleana to work directly in the civic engagement arena."

Jordyn, 34, is the daughter of Native Hawaiian advocate Robin Danner, and was raised on Hawaiian Home Lands in Anahola, Kauai along with her three younger brothers.

"Our entire board and staff are so pleased to welcome Jordyn to our team at CNHA," Kauhane said. "She is eminently qualified to lead this work, and to also support the training and capacity of our smaller member organizations to leverage their power."

The Vote to Rise campaign will partner with the 'No Vote, No Grumble' initiative, with 'Native Vote' and 'Asian Pacific Islander Vote' campaigns in Hawaii and across the country. Voter registration, phone banking, voter education and moving the next generation are key strategies of the CNHA Vote to Rise campaign.

For more information, visit www.hawaiiancouncil.org or email policy@hawaiiancouncil.org.

CNHA is a national network of Native Hawaiian Organizations, providing assistance in accessing capital and technical resources, and is a policy voice on issues important to Native Hawaiian communities. Its mission is to enhance the cultural, economic, political, and community development of Native Hawaiians. For more information about CNHA please contact us at 808.596.8155, toll-free at 1.800.709.2642, by e-mail at info@hawaiiancouncil.org, or at www.hawaiiancouncil.org. ***(PR)***

Naval Hospital Guam to undergo accreditation survey

The Joint Commission and the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Medical Inspector General (MEDIG) inspection teams will conduct their 2016 triennial survey at Naval Hospital Guam (NHG) and its branch medical and dental clinics at Naval Base Guam on May 9-12, 2016.

The purpose of the survey by the Joint Commission and MEDIG is to evaluate the compliance of NHG and its branch clinics with nationally established Joint Commission and Navy standards of care specific to the needs of patients, including infection prevention and control, leadership and medication management. The inspection is conducted approximately every three years at U.S. Navy medical treatment facilities with the survey results used to determine whether, and the conditions under which, accreditation should be awarded to Naval Hospital Guam.

By becoming an accredited organization, NHG enhances community confidence. Additionally, it provides a report card for the public, offers an objective evaluation of the organization's performance, stimulates the organization's quality improvement efforts, aids in professional staff recruitment, and provides a staff education tool for the hospital.

An independent, not-for-profit organization, The Joint Commission accredits and certifies more than 20,000 health care organizations and programs in the United States. Joint Commission accreditation and certification is recognized nationwide as a symbol of quality that reflects an organization's commitment to meeting certain performance standards. By asking for accreditation, Naval Hospital Guam agrees to be measured against national standards set by health care professionals. An accredited organization substantially complies with Joint Commission standards and continuously makes efforts to improve the care and service provided.

Joint Commission standards deal with organizational quality of care issues and the safety of the environment in which care is provided. The Joint Commission survey team usually consists of specially trained physicians, nurses, administrators and a facilities expert. The surveyors will evaluate NHG's compliance with established standards and identify strengths and weaknesses. The overall goal is not merely to find problems, but also to provide education and consultation so health care organizations can improve.

Patients and staff members may contact a Joint Commission surveyor during this survey and request a public information interview. For an appointment, please call (360) 475-4707 or 4107.

Concerns may also be brought to the attention of the Joint Commission Office at their official website: http://www.jointcommission.org/report_a_complaint.aspx; or by calling 1-800-994-6610 or email patientsafetyreport@jointcommission.org or with the Medical Inspector General by calling 301-295-9009 or by email at: NavyMEDIGHotline@mail.mil. ***(PR)***

Veteran's resolution unanimously passes in Guam

A resolution authored by Senator Frank F. Blas, Jr. that would assist veterans seeking medical attention off island was passed unanimously in session yesterday afternoon.

"I want to thank all of my colleagues for agreeing that this resolution is critical to the level of care we provide our veterans on Guam and in the region," Blas said.

Blas authored Guam Legislative Resolution No. 302-33(COR), "Relative to encouraging the United States Congress to introduce and adopt legislation that would increase compensation for Veterans residing on Guam and other geographically-challenged areas in the Pacific for costs associated with obtaining treatment that is routinely available for all other U.S. Veterans."

The resolution encourages the United States Congress to introduce and adopt legislation that would increase compensation for veterans residing on Guam and other geographically-challenged areas in the Pacific to help address the challenges in traveling to access health services provided or approved by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The bi-partisan measure was cosponsored by Senators V. Anthony Ada, Thomas C. Ada and Frank Blas Aguon Jr.

A public hearing on the resolution was held last month. Now that the resolution has been passed by the Guam Legislature, it will be transmitted to numerous individuals and organizations including the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Congresswoman Madeleine Bordallo and Congressman Rob Wittman from the State of Virginia.

For more information, please contact Senator Frank F. Blas, Jr., at 687-1483 or via email at frank.blasjr@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 29th birthday to Mary Ann Laguerta who will be celebrating her special day today, May 4, Wednesday. Wishing you all the blessings and many more years to come have fun on your day off we love you. From your previous gift shop family Jenna and Liezel.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Business

Bitcoin's creator unmasks himself—well, maybe

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The mystery creator of the digital currency bitcoin has finally stepped forward. Or has he?

Australian inventor Craig Steven Wright announced Monday that he is "Satoshi Nakamoto," the elusive, pseudonymous bitcoin founder.

In interviews with the Economist, BBC, GQ and a few bitcoin insiders, bolstered by a technical demonstration intended to prove that he and Nakamoto are one and the same, Wright tried to lay to rest one of the biggest mysteries in the tech world.

But Wright, who first emerged as a leading Nakamoto contender last December , may not have closed the case.

While some bitcoin experts accept his demonstration as evidence that Wright is indeed Nakamoto, others argue that his supposed proof—a series of complex mathematical operations listed in a blog post—doesn't prove anything.

Bitcoin allows people a way to make payments without using banks or national currencies such as the dollar or the euro. Because bitcoin transactions are unregulated and anonymous, the currency has proved popular among libertarians, tech enthusiasts, speculators and criminals. Nakamoto, who founded the currency in 2009, dropped out of sight in 2010, but bitcoin has mostly chugged along without him.

Knowing who actually founded bitcoin wouldn't have any immediate effect on the digital currency.

But the founder might have standing to weigh in on a bitter technical dispute that threatens to hamper bitcoin's growth. And the real Nakamoto would be rich and able to disrupt bitcoin just by selling chunks of his holdings. Nakamoto possesses around 1 million bitcoins worth some $440 million; those coins have never been touched.

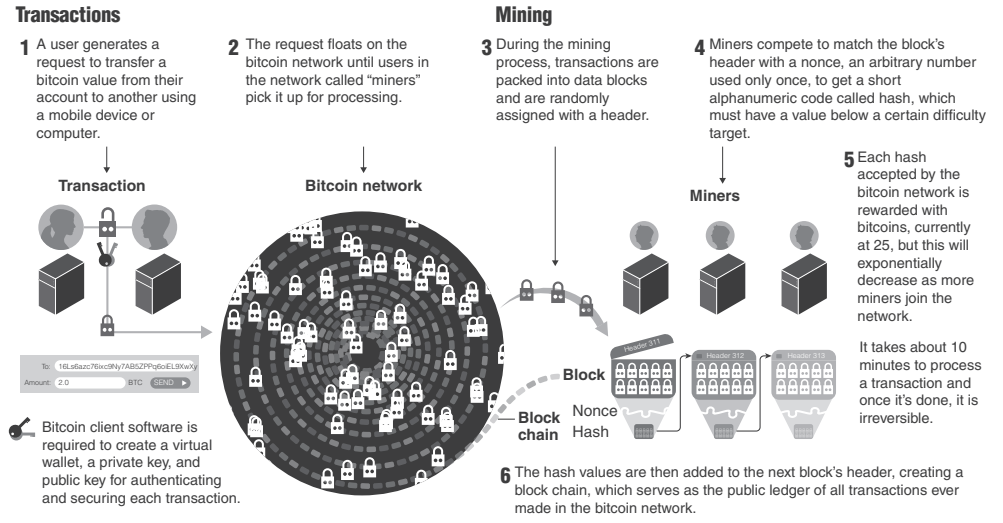
Wright's announcement is the latest twist in the long search for the real Nakamoto, a pursuit that's become a cottage industry for journalists and online sleuths.

In 2011, The New Yorker focused speculation on cryptography researcher Michael Clear, who denied it. Newsweek fingered Japanese-American engineer Dorian Satoshi Nakamoto more than a year ago, though this Nakamoto quickly insisted in an AP interview that it was a clumsy case of mistaken identity.

So is Wright actually Nakamoto?

The bitcoin economy

Bitcoin is a digital currency that enables payment in a decentralized peer-to-peer network that is powered and approved by the consensus of its users. There is no central authority or middleman that controls it.


Transactions
1 A user generates a request to transfer a bitcoin value from their account to another using a mobile device or computer.
2 The request floats on the bitcoin network until users in the network called "miners" pick it up for processing.
Mining
3 During the mining process, transactions are packed into data blocks and are randomly assigned with a header.
4 Miners compete to match the block's header with a nonce, an arbitrary number used only once, to get a short alphanumeric code called hash, which must have a value below a certain difficulty target.
5 Each hash accepted by the bitcoin network is rewarded with bitcoins, currently at 25, but this will exponentially decrease as more miners join the network.
It takes about 10 minutes to process a transaction and once it's done, it is irreversible.
Transaction
Bitcoin network
Miners
Block
Block chain
Nonce
Hash
Header 311
Header 312
Header 313
Bitcoin client software is required to create a virtual wallet, a private key, and public key for authenticating and securing each transaction.
6 The hash values are then added to the next block's header, creating a block chain, which serves as the public ledger of all transactions ever made in the bitcoin network.

Sources: Bitcoin.org; Bitcoin Ladder

Graphic: Staff, Tribune News Service

Puerto Rico skips bond payments, says Congress must help

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—A spiraling Puerto Rico debt crisis reached a new milestone as the island missed nearly $370 million on a bond payment Monday and officials warned of worse to come if the U.S. Congress doesn't help it dig out from a mountain of debt.

The default was the largest in a series of missed payments by the struggling U.S. territory since last year and Gov. Alejandro Garcia Padilla warned it was unlikely to be the last.

Puerto Rico has payments totaling nearly $2 billion coming due on July 1, including about $700 million in general obligation bonds that are supposed to be guaranteed under the island's constitution. In an ominous warning directed at Congress and creditors that include U.S. hedge funds, Garcia said the outlook for the next payment is bleak.

"We don't anticipate having the money," he told a news conference in the capital, San Juan.

The remedy, Garcia warned, is either a restructuring arrangement with creditors or legislation from Congress. U.S. lawmakers left for recess last week while a bill that would restore Puerto Rico's legal authority to restructure as states are able to do and set up a fiscal control board was stalled in committee.

Garcia, who inherited the crisis when he took office in January 2013, blamed lobbying by "vulture" hedge funds and what he called "racist" attitudes toward Puerto Rico.

"Our worst enemy at the moment is politics," he said.

White House spokesman Josh Earnest said Monday's default should be another red flag for Republicans in Congress. "This situation requires an urgent response and Republicans in Congress have been dragging their feet for too long," Earnest said.

The White House has put forward a plan that would allow Puerto Rico's government to restructure its debt and impose new oversight on finances, among other measures. Earnest said the oversight measures distinguish the proposal from a bailout - a charge Republicans have lodged against the plan. But, Earnest warned, continued delay in Congress "only makes a bailout more likely."

Following Monday's default, U.S. Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew released a letter to House Speaker Paul Ryan in which he urged him to work quickly to resolve the "few outstanding issues" on the legislation to help Puerto Rico. "Going forward, Puerto Rico's $70 billion of debt is unsustainable by any measure. It simply cannot afford to pay its debt," Lew said.

Nation

Solar plane on global trip arrives in Arizona

GOODYEAR, Ariz. (AP)—A solar-powered airplane landed in suburban Phoenix Monday night after a daylong flight from California—the latest leg in its around the world journey using only energy from the sun.

The Swiss-made Solar Impulse 2 arrived in the suburb of Goodyear, just to the southwest of Phoenix, shortly before 9 p.m. PDT.

Pilot Andre Borschberg called the 16-hour trip "a beautiful flight," after stepping from the cockpit.

"It was a special flight; not a long flight," he added.

The aircraft took off from Mountain View in northern California shortly after 5 a.m.

It began its globe-circling journey last year, and flew from Hawaii to the Silicon Valley last week.

After Phoenix, the plane will make two more stops in the United States before crossing the Atlantic Ocean to Europe or northern Africa, according to the website documenting the journey.

For several minutes after arriving, Borschberg remained aboard as powerful winds buffeted the aircraft, forcing the ground crew to hold down it down with straps.

"Sometimes it is more difficult to handle the airplane on the ground than in flight," he told reporters later.

Video from cameras aboard the aircraft as well as on the ground at the Goodyear airport showed the Solar Impulse as it flew through the night sky enroute to its safe touch down southwest of Phoenix.

Hours earlier, shortly after takeoff, Borschberg used his phone to snap photos of the sun coming up along the horizon. Then he prepared for media interviews and made breakfast plans.

"I'm heating up water for coffee," Borschberg told his ground crew. "A nice Nescafe."

His co-pilot, Bertrand Piccard, also of Switzerland, made the three-day trip from Hawaii to the heart of Silicon Valley, where he landed last week.

Marines investigating claim about men in Iwo Jima photo

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—The Marine Corps says it has begun investigating whether it mistakenly identified one of the men shown raising the U.S. flag at Iwo Jima in one of the iconic images of World War II after two amateur history buffs began raising questions about the picture.

The Marines announced its inquiry more than a year after Eric Krelle, of Omaha, Nebraska, and Stephen Foley, of Wexford, Ireland, began raising doubts about the identity of one man. In November 2014, the Omaha World-Herald published an extensive story about their claims and Saturday was the first to report the Marines were looking into the matter.

Associated Press photographer Joe Rosenthal shot the photo on Feb. 23, 1945, on Mount Suribachi, amid an intense battle with the Japanese. Rosenthal didn't get the names of the men, but the photo immediately was celebrated in the U.S. and President Franklin Roosevelt told the military to identify the men.

After some confusion, the Marines identified the men as John Bradley, Rene Gagnon, Ira Hayes, Harlon Block, Michael Strank and Franklin Sousley. All were Marines except Bradley, who was a Navy corpsman.

Block, Strank and Sousley were killed in fighting at Iwo Jima before the photo was distributed in the U.S.

On Monday, the Marines issued a statement saying, "The Marine Corps is examining information provided by a private organization related (to) Joe Rosenthal's Associated Press photograph of the second flag raising on Iwo Jima.

"Rosenthal's photo captured a single moment in the 36-day battle during which more than 6,500 US servicemen made the ultimate sacrifice for our Nation and it is representative of the more than 70,000 US Marines, Sailors, Soldiers and Coast Guardsmen that took part in the battle. We are humbled by the service and sacrifice of all who fought on Iwo Jima."

ACROSS THE NATION

Man who served 10 years for '64 NYC killing cleared of crime

NEW YORK (AP)—A Virginia man who spent almost 10 years in prison for a New York City slaying he was pressured to plead guilty to over 50 years ago was back in court on Monday—to hear a judge finally vacate the conviction. At the request of a prosecutor, a judge exonerated 81-year-old Paul Gatling for the 1963 shooting death of Lawrence Rothbort in his Brooklyn home. In doing so, the judge apologized and Gatling hugged his crying ex-wife and a friend. "There's a lot of water gone under the bridge, but the bridge is still standing," Gatling said after the court proceeding.

Jury: Hawaii school failed to protect girl from rape

HONOLULU (AP)—A jury has found that Hawaii's public school system failed to protect a special education student who says she was raped by a classmate. But the verdict Monday also says the state Department of Education and a special education teacher at Waianae High School didn't act recklessly or intentionally. Jurors deliberated over two days in a lawsuit filed by Mariana Harris' mother saying the girl, now 19, was raped by a boy from her special education class in a unisex bathroom in 2013. The AP doesn't usually identify sex assault victims unless they choose to go public. Harris and her mother say they want to help other victims. The jury awarded $810,000 in damages. Lawyers had asked for $3.2 million.

Military tests unmanned ship designed for seafaring missions

SAN DIEGO (AP)—The military is starting tests on the world's largest unmanned surface vessel—a self-driving, 132-foot ship designed to travel thousands of miles out at sea without a single crew member on board. The so-called "Sea Hunter" has the potential to revolutionize not only the military's maritime operations but commercial shipping, according to military officials. If successful, it could usher in the arrival of unmanned cargo vessels moving between countries. Military officials showed off the ship in San Diego on Monday before it set off to a nearby Naval base where the testing will be conducted. The sleek, futuristic-looking steel-gray vessel was docked at a maritime terminal in the heart of San Diego's shipbuilding district, where TV crews filmed the robotic craft. No media access was given to the inside of the vessel.

Asia

Wealth question hangs over PH mayor's presidential run

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Allegations that the Philippine presidential election front-runner had a large sum of money in an undeclared bank account were not resolved Monday, allowing the issue to hang over the final week of the closely fought race.

Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV has alleged Mayor Rodrigo Duterte kept more than 200 million pesos ($4.2 million) in a joint bank account with his daughter that he did not declare publicly in 2014 as required by law.

Trillanes, who is running for vice president and is backing a rival candidate of Duterte, went to the Bank of the Philippine Islands and met with the mayor's lawyer but said the questioned account was not opened for scrutiny.

When Trillanes stepped out of the bank, some of the dozens of Duterte supporters yelled "liar" at him before he was whisked off by escorts in a van. Riot police stood by to maintain order in the business district where Trillanes' supporters also came, carrying posters that read: "We don't want corrupt candidates."

A large throng of journalists, TV cameramen and photographers stood outside the bank to await the outcome of the meeting between Trillanes and Duterte lawyer Salvador Panelo.

AP

Philippines presidential candidate Rodrigo Duterte, center, clenches his fist as he is cheered by kitchen staff of a Chinese restaurant following his meeting with some politicians who shifted political support to his camp Friday, April 29, 2016 in Manila, Philippines.

Japan announces $7 billion plan to develop Mekong region

BANGKOK (AP)—Japan's foreign minister announced a $7 billion initiative Monday to promote development in Southeast Asia's Mekong region, which encompasses parts of Vietnam, Laos and Thailand through which the river flows.

In a speech at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Fumio Kishida affirmed the importance of Southeast Asia's economic prosperity to Japan. He pledged 750 billion yen ($7 billion) in funding over the next three years to support development and growth in the region.

The initiative will help promote "connectivity" within Southeast Asian countries and Japan through funding in infrastructure and development of human resources. Thailand has become a key manufacturing and export hub for Japanese manufacturers such as Toyota and Honda.

"Invigorating the flow of goods and people by connecting the region through roads, bridges and railways is indispensable for promoting economic development," he said, adding that Japan's cooperation will go beyond just building infrastructure.

Over the next three years, "we will make use of funds amounting to 750 billion yen toward cooperation with the Mekong region," Kishida said. Specific details have not been announced but he said Japan would like to work together with the Mekong countries to create a framework to support the various efforts, including regional issues and theme-oriented support, in a detailed manner.

"I am expecting the day when, as a result of these efforts, I can depart from Bangkok eastward in the morning and arrive in Ho Chi Minh City at night and enjoy pho for dinner," he said.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Afghan police officer kills wife in public, then himself

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—An Afghan official says that a police officer shot his wife in public before shooting himself in the country's eastern Paktika province. Nesar Ahmad AbdulRahimzai, deputy provincial police chief in Paktika, said on Monday that the man accused his wife of having affairs. He then shot her in front of a crowded public market before shooting himself. The police officer was pronounced dead on the scene, but his wife died later in a local hospital. Domestic violence is an endemic problem in male-dominated Afghan society.

British family attacked in Thailand recount assault in court

BANGKOK (AP)—A British couple in their 60s who were brutally attacked during a holiday in Thailand have recounted the assault in court after a visit from government officials bearing gifts and apologies. Rosemary and Lewis Owen and their 43-year-old son were vacationing last month in the resort town of Hua Hin when a group of four allegedly drunken Thai men attacked them. A video of the April 13 assault that was widely shared in Thailand shows the three tourists getting punched and kicked until they fell unconscious. A Cabinet minister and other officials visited the couple Monday with fruit baskets, flowers and other gifts.

Indonesian police fatally shoot French citizen in Bali

BALI, Indonesia (AP)—Indonesian police say they fatally shot a French citizen after he stabbed a policeman to death while resisting arrest on the resort island of Bali. Bali police chief Maj. Gen. Sugeng Priyanto said Amokrane Sabet, reportedly a former mixed martial arts fighter, was shot during a skirmish Monday in front of his rented villa in Badung. Priyanto said police had received complaints from residents who described the 49-year-old Sabet as a violent troublemaker. He said Sabet, whose tourist visa expired last September, brandished a knife when police and immigration officers came to arrest him. He said Sabet chased the officers and repeatedly stabbed a policeman who fell to the ground. Priyanto said police shot him after he ignored warning shots.

World

Turkey, US-led coalition pound IS group in Syria

ISTANBUL (AP)—The Turkish military said Monday that artillery shelling and drone attacks by the U.S.-led coalition have struck Islamic State positions in Syria and killed a total of 63 militants.

The state-owned Anadolu Agency said the strikes took out multiple rocket launchers and gun positions.

Four drones deployed from the Incirlik air base, a launching point for U.S.-led coalition forces in southern Turkey, took part in the operation and killed 29 militants.

The airstrikes were informed by intelligence gathered by the Turkish army, the private Dogan news agency reported.

The remaining 34 IS fighters were "neutralized" by rocket fire and artillery shelling from Turkey, according to Anadolu Agency.

The Associated Press was unable to immediately verify the reported casualties.

The offensive started on Sunday when four rockets fired from Syria hit the Turkish border town of Kilis and wounded eight people. On Monday, one person was killed and two others were wounded from two more rocket projectiles that struck the town, Anadolu reported.

Kilis has been hammered by cross-fire border fire since mid-January and the death raised the number of fatalities from rocket fire to 20.

The wider province of Kilis borders territory contested by IS militants, anti-government Syrian rebels and Kurdish factions.

The Turkish army typically responds to fire from Syria in line with its rules of engagement.

In the past year, Turkey has also witnessed suicide bombings linked to IS as well as attacks linked to Kurdish militants.

The latest came Sunday, when a car bomb detonated outside a police station in the southern city of Gaziantep, near Syria.

Interior Minister Efkan Ala said Monday that the Gaziantep attack was carried out by militants linked to the IS group. Up to 50 people were detained for questioning in the city over the attack, he added.

Intense diplomacy, proposals for new Syria cease-fire

BEIRUT (AP)—Syria's military extended its own, unilateral cease-fire around Damascus for another 48 hours on Monday amid an intense diplomatic push by the United States and Russia to restore a partial truce for the entire country—one that would include war-battered Aleppo, Syria's largest city.

American officials say one idea being considered by the U.S. side is a detailed map that would be drawn up with the Russians laying out "safe zones" where civilians and members of moderate opposition groups covered by the truce could find shelter from persistent government attacks.

It was not immediately clear whether Russia would accept such a plan or if Moscow could persuade Syrian President Bashar Assad's government to respect the prospective zones.

One U.S. official said "hard lines" would delineate specific areas and neighborhoods. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the matter publicly.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry did not specifically refer to such a proposal in his comments to reporters in Geneva, where he met Monday with the Saudi foreign minister and the U.N. envoy for Syria, Staffan de Mistura.

"There are several proposals that are now going back to key players to sign off. We are hopeful but we are not there yet," Kerry said, adding he would telephone Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov later Monday and that de Mistura was headed to Moscow on Tuesday for talks.

Aleppo has remained on knife's edge as rebels and government forces trade rockets and bombs across the northern city and its outskirts, according to activist monitoring groups. Fierce violence took the lives of more than 250 civilians over the previous nine days, according to opposition activists.

Israel to hold Palestinian journalist 4 months without trial

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP)—Israel's military on Monday ordered a well-known Palestinian journalist to be held for four months without charges or trial, in so-called administrative detention.

The military said Omar Nazzal is being held on suspicion of "unlawful activity" for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a small PLO faction that has been labeled a terrorist organization by Israel.

Nazzal's lawyer, Mahmoud Hassan, said he believes his client, a leading member of the Palestinian journalists' union, is being targeted because of his political activism. Hassan noted that under the system of administrative detention, the defense is not shown any alleged evidence against a detainee.

Nazzal, 53, has been in Israeli custody since he was seized at an Israeli-run crossing between the West Bank and Jordan last month, while traveling to a meeting of the European Federation of Journalists.

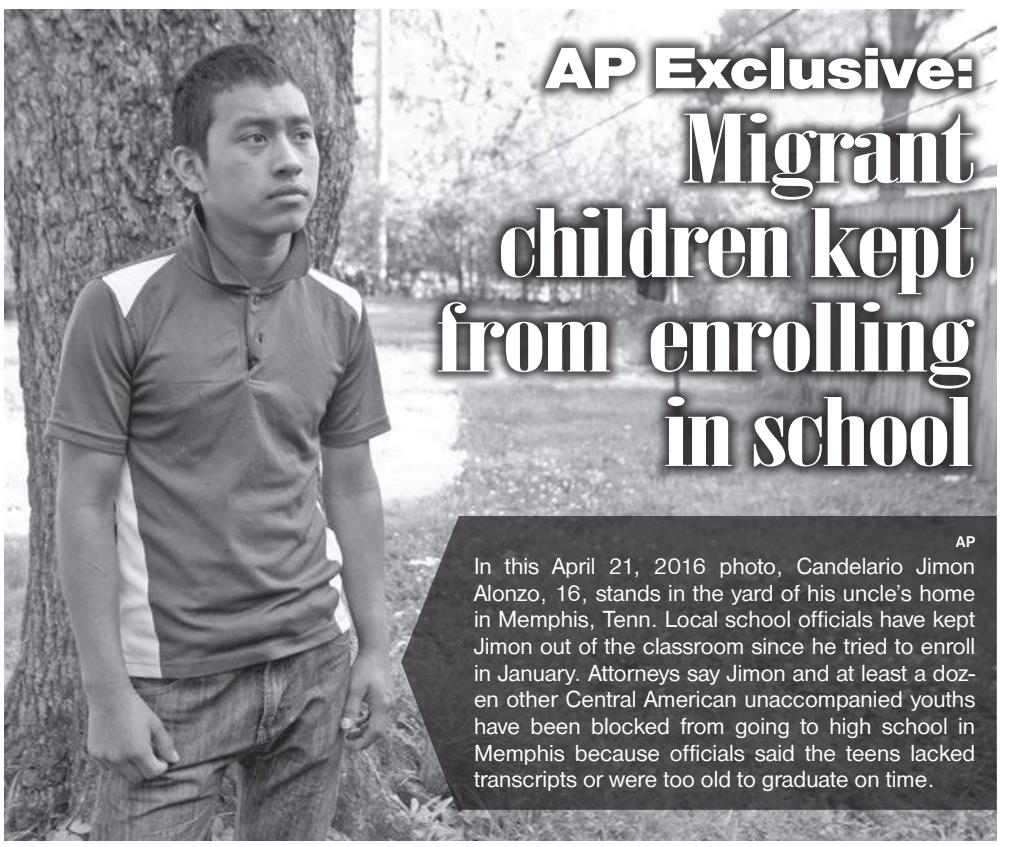
The journalist headed Palestine Today, a TV station affiliated with the militant group Islamic Jihad, for five months, but quit earlier this year shortly before Israel shut it down. He also had ties to the PFLP which in the past was involved in attacks on Israelis.

Hassan denied his client was linked to violence. "This arrest is a political arrest," the lawyer said.

The number of Palestinians in administrative detention reached 627 at the end of February, according to official figures by the Israel Prison Service that are regularly published by the Israeli rights group B'Tselem. Critics say Israel's large-scale use of the practice amounts to a violation of rules of due process.

The number of administrative detainees has doubled since the start of the current round of Israeli-Palestinian violence in September. Since the fall, Palestinians have carried out frequent attacks on Israelis, including stabbings or ramming by cars. The attacks have killed 28 Israelis and two Americans.

Focus



AP Exclusive: Migrant children kept from enrolling in school

AP

In this April 21, 2016 photo, Candelario Jimon Alonzo, 16, stands in the yard of his uncle's home in Memphis, Tenn. Local school officials have kept Jimon out of the classroom since he tried to enroll in January. Attorneys say Jimon and at least a dozen other Central American unaccompanied youths have been blocked from going to high school in Memphis because officials said the teens lacked transcripts or were too old to graduate on time.

By GARANCE BURKE and ADRIAN SAINZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Candelario Jimon Alonzo came to the U.S. dreaming of becoming something more than what seemed possible along the rutted roads of his hometown in Guatemala's highlands. This was his chance: He could earn a U.S. high school education and eventually become a teacher.

Instead, the 16-year-old spends most days alone in the tumbledown Memphis house where he lives with his uncle, leaving only occasionally to play soccer and pick up what English he can from his friends.

Local school officials have kept Jimon out of the classroom since he tried to enroll in January. Attorneys say Jimon and at least a dozen other migrant youth fleeing violence in Central America have been blocked from going to Memphis high schools because officials contend the teens lacked transcripts or were too old to graduate on time.

The Associated Press has found that in at least 35 districts in 14 states, hundreds of unaccompanied minors from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras have been discouraged from enrolling in schools or pressured into what advocates and attorneys argue are separate but unequal alternative programs—essentially an academic dead end, and one that can violate federal law.

Instead of enrolling Jimon and the other minors in high school, their cash-strapped district routed them to an adult school in East Memphis that offered English classes a few hours a week. But before Jimon could even register, the state shut the GED and English-language programs over concerns that few students were graduating, effectively ending his chances for a formal education.

"I really wanted to study math and English when I got here," said Jimon, who grew up speaking Spanish and the indigenous language Quiche. The reed thin, soft-spoken teen is in the process of applying for permission to stay in the country permanently.

Shelby County Schools spokeswoman Natalia Powers said her sprawling district had a policy that allowed students 16 and older to choose to enroll in a GED program, and that once the program closed, students could continue studying in a "similar" program at a local nonprofit. But attorneys and advocates said their clients weren't given the choice to attend a mainstream high school, and that the Memphis nonprofit did not teach English.

America's schools remain one of the few government institutions where migrant youth are guaranteed services, but the federal government has extended little money or oversight to monitor whether that happens, in part because schools are locally governed.

Since fall 2013, the federal government has placed nearly 104,000 unaccompanied minors with adult sponsors in communities nationwide, where they are expected to attend school while they seek legal status in immigration court. Months later, during the dramatic surge of illegal crossings at the border, the Education and Justice departments issued joint guidance reminding districts that a 1982 Supreme Court ruling established that states cannot deny children a free public education, regardless of immigration status.

Districts found to have broken the law can be forced to change their enrollment policies, but making that happen is not easy. To start, few migrant children understand their rights.

Students and their advocates can sue districts or file complaints with the Education or Justice departments, but investigations are so backlogged that decisions can take years and typically result only in civil sanctions, said Lisa Carmona, a senior attorney with the nonprofit Southern Poverty Law Center.

"Some students who come from other countries may be far behind, but that doesn't allow the school district to say that you will never succeed so we will put you in our least challenging environment, forever," said John Affeldt, managing attorney with San Francisco-based civil rights nonprofit Public Advocates. "You won't see that challenged very often because these kids usually aren't connected to communities that have a lot of resources or access to lawyers." Many local school districts have stretched to find the resources and staff to meet the educational needs of these students, who often carry emotional trauma, have gaps in their education and are older than other English-language learners.

To determine where that was not happening, the AP analyzed federal data to identify areas where the number of migrant children was relatively large when compared to public school enrollment, along with the number of students formally learning English. In Alabama, California, Florida, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee, Texas and South Carolina, social workers and attorneys told AP that migrant students have been barred from enrolling, kept out of class for months due to elaborate paperwork requirements or routed to reform schools and adult programs. The full extent of how the Central American minors are faring in schools is unknown because the government does not release data on counties where fewer than 50 minors have been placed, which means information was not provided for about 25,000 of the migrants. Some examples of where AP found unaccompanied youths facing educational barriers:

■ Case managers said schools in Florida's Miami-Dade County had routed teens as young as 16 to adult schools, where they can take only English as a Second Language classes. Miami-Dade County Public Schools spokesman John Schuster said registration in the adult program was optional, and could include GED prep.

■ City officials in Lynn, Massachusetts, suggested two Central American teens were lying about their age to get into high school in summer 2014. Since then, dozens of unaccompanied minors have been sent to alternative newcomers programs, where they studied English and other material but received no credit. The district declined comment.

■ About 50 unaccompanied minors were denied access or routed into alternative, non-degree bearing programs in Hempstead and Westbury, on New York's Long Island. A settlement was announced in March requiring the Westbury district to improve enrollment policies and provide students comprehensive instruction.

Spokeswomen for the Education and Justice departments declined to comment on the scope of the problem, but said the agencies remained vigilant about protecting unaccompanied migrant students' civil rights.

Some districts have gone to extraordinary lengths to accommodate the students, who often come to join relatives, sometimes escaping criminal gangs or extreme poverty. One district in rural Kansas rerouted a school bus to ensure a group of unaccompanied teens could make it to class. A San Francisco high school rewrote young-adult novels at a basic level to spark the newcomers' interest in reading. A Maryland district created a new after-school program to help students bond with their sponsors.

In Rhode Island, a handful of small school districts have dragged their feet in registering migrant children, but two diverse urban districts—Providence and Central Falls—have welcomed the challenging population. At Providence's Mt. Pleasant High School, teacher Murkje Dekoe said her Central American students who work weekends in cranberry bogs and late nights in jewelry factories have the highest attendance rates.

In March 2015, federal officials made $14 million in grants available for county school districts where the government placed more than 50 unaccompanied minors with sponsors. But that amounts to less than $175 for each unaccompanied child placed in those counties in the last two and a half years, which many districts say leaves them to cover too much of the cost.

In Florida's Miami-Dade, the country's fourth-largest school district, officials estimate it costs about $2,700 more per year to educate each foreign-born student.

"When refugee kids are resettled, it is a policy decision that gets made and arrives at our door," said Gabriela Uro, a director at the Council of the Great City Schools, which represents large, urban districts, including Miami.

"We have basically had to help each other because we have not been getting much in the way of help from the states or the feds," she said.

The new student population can have a particularly noticeable impact in smaller districts, such as the 3,000 pupil district in Nobles County, Minnesota, about 250 miles southwest of Minneapolis. Since fall 2013, the government has placed at least 121 unaccompanied minors there, equivalent to about 3 percent of current public school enrollment, according to federal data.

The district hired two new English-language instructors and some special education support staff in the last year to meet the students' needs.

"We evaluate them related to their abilities with language and grade level so we can provide interventions," said Worthington school district Superintendent John Landgaard. "There is no one-size-fits-all box for these kids."

All children must attend school until at least the eighth grade or until they turn 16 under compulsory education laws in all 50 states. Students can enroll beyond that age in many states.

For students learning English, federal guidance says school districts must provide appropriate language assistance services so students can participate equally in the standard instructional program within a reasonable period of time.

In the heart of Silicon Valley—near the headquarters of Facebook, where CEO Mark Zuckerberg often calls for immigration reform—attorneys said two wealthy California districts have shunted off about 30 migrant teens to adult schools.

On a recent morning, about a dozen Central American youths were studying ESL in trailer classrooms; they said the San Mateo Union High School District blocked them from going to the high-performing high school next door.

"We tried to go to the high school because the classes are a lot more interesting there, but they said we couldn't," said Melvin Lara, 18, who recently arrived from El Salvador and had hoped to study at San Mateo High School, which Newsweek deemed one of America's top high schools.

District spokeswoman Sheri Costa-Batis said only teens who were at least 17 1/2 years old and arrived at the district "significantly undereducated" are referred to San Mateo Adult School for "intensive learning." She also said that students must go through a waiver process and get a release from their parent or guardian in order to attend.

Even in states like New York, where many districts already had special curriculum for immigrant students, some newcomer programs have been criticized for failing to bring English learners into the mainstream.

Since January 2015, 22 New York districts have changed their policies as the result of an ongoing investigation by the state attorney general into claims that school officials routed immigrant students into alternative, non-degree bearing programs or denied them access.

Neither the Education Department nor Justice Department would say how many of the nation's roughly 14,000 school districts have been investigated for similar failures.

Education spokeswoman Dorie Nolt said her department has given districts extensive resources to access relevant federal services and supports.

"We remain committed to working with federal partners and community-based organizations to address any issues that unaccompanied children, their sponsors, and families may face in dealing with the education system," she said.

Good Housekeeping

Diggin' In: Grow what you eat in the garden, and even what you often toss out in the kitchen

By KATHY VAN MULLEKOM
DAILY PRESS (NEWPORT NEWS, VA.)

Vegetables and fruits are fun to grow and good to eat—and adventurous to regrow from kitchen scraps.

Here's how to get the most out of your edible garden and even what you used to toss in the trash.

Regrow kitchen scraps

At Brent and Becky's Bulbs, a recent class focused on growing more edibles from kitchen scraps.

"Many fruits and vegetables will grow from the parts you prefer not to eat," says Denise Hutchins, spokeswoman for the national mail-order and on-site retail garden center in Gloucester, Va.—www.brentandbeckysbulbs.com.

Items such as lettuce, celery, bok choy, fennel and green onions can be grown in water, according to Hutchins.

To start lettuce, cut off the bottom of the stalk and place it in a bowl. Add just enough water to cover the bottom of the stalk. New growth will appear in three days from the center. In two weeks you should have half a head of lettuce.

To start celery, cut off the bottom three inches of a celery stalk and place it in a small bowl of water. New growth appears in three to four days from the center.

Follow the same steps with bok choy and fennel and new growth will appear within days. For green onions, use the tops and place the bottoms in a slender glass vase or jar; new growth will be seen in two to three days.

"Other fun items to experiment with when trying out recycled gardening are avocados, cilantro, ginger and pineapple," says Hutchins.

Avocado seeds should be washed once extracted. Use toothpicks to hold the seed up over water in a bowl or glass or even a rooting jar. Water should cover the bottom of the seed. Keep in a warm place out of direct sunlight. Wait six weeks for the stem and roots to appear. Once leaves form you can plant the seed in soil, but still leave half of the seed exposed.

Ginger root can be placed buds up in a pot of soil, and will grow into a beautiful house plant. Just dig up and take a piece off when needed.

To start cilantro, place the bottom of the stems in a glass of water and place it in a bright area. Once the roots have grown a couple of inches transplant them into a pot.

Pineapple is fun to grow and makes a nice houseplant, but takes a few years to produce a fruit, according to Hutchins. To get it started, cut off the top of the pineapple and remove excess around the crown and the bottom leaves. Set the cleaned up crown in water and keep in direct sunlight. Once roots are showing, in about a week, transfer to a container with potting soil. After one year, repot the pineapple in fresh soil.

"Even seeds can be extracted and grown such as pumpkins, lemons, peaches and tomatoes to name a few," says Hutchins.

"Next time you are about to throw scraps out, think twice—there is still life inside!"

Artwork Baby Broccoli. TNS

Chocolate Sprinkles Tomato. TNS

Flaming Flare Fresno Chili Pepper. TNS

Tasty tomato tips

When the soil warms in early to mid-May, it's tomato-planting time and time to dream of homemade BLT sandwiches and other tomato-tasty treats.

Getting tomato plants off to the right start is crucial to a good crop of juicy fruits, according to garden experts.

Choose a bright, airy spot with all-day sun. Rotate the crop, or don't plant tomatoes in the same spot year after year, according to Bonnie Plants—www.bonnieplants.com. Bury the stems, almost two-thirds of the plant should be in the soil. Water deeply, but infrequently. Sucker them, or pinch off the runts. Stake them high. Add compost.

3 new veggies

Here are three new vegetables from Bonnie Plants, a brand sold at garden centers, including Home Depot, Wal-Mart and Lowe's, according to a news release. Find more year-round vegetable, herb and flowering plant types—and sign up for educational newsletters and free planting app at www.bonnieplants.com.

To find stores that carry Bonnie Plants, enter your zip code at http://find.bonnieplants.com.

■ Artwork Baby Broccoli. Instead of producing one large broccoli head Artwork Baby yields dark green side shoots with bite-size heads and long, edible stems. Named an All-America Selections winner in 2015, the plant matures in 55 days and needs full sun.

■ Chocolate Sprinkles Tomato. Bite-sized, cherry-style tomatoes are artfully colored—red striped with dark green. Plant needs full sun, and grows five to seven feet tall, so stake or cage it for support at planting time. Disease resistant; fruit matures in 50-55 days.

■ Flaming Flare Fresno Chili Pepper. This 2015 All-America Selections winner bears 4-inch-long fruits that are mild and sweet, with a hint of spiciness. The green peppers gain more heat as they turn red, mature in 75 days and need full sun. Great for chili sauces.

Veggie planting tips

For a healthy, productive vegetable garden, provide:

■ Full sun.
■ Compost-rich, well-draining soil.
■ Mulch to reduce weeds.
■ Good spacing for air circulation.
■ Cages or trellises as recommended.
■ Soaker-hose irrigation during dry spells.
■ Nearby flowers to attract pollinators.

Pollinator purposes

As you plan and plant your vegetable, herb and fruit gardens, keep in mind the important roles that pollinators play in fruit set and production. Not to mention overall environmental health.

"When thinking of pollinator species many of us automatically think of bees and butterflies, but this also includes bats, flies, birds, beetles and more," says Hutchins.

"Cutting back or eliminating the use of chemicals in your yard and garden as well as planting native species invite pollinators to the healthy and sustainable habitat you create."

The company's free fall-planting, spring-blooming bulb catalog also features a pollinator symbol that identifies pollinator-friendly plants. The website— www.brentandbeckysbulbs.com—also includes butterfly symbols next to pollinator-beneficial species.

Everything from pineapple and lettuces to carrots and peppers will regrow in water to give you more food to enjoy. TNS

Life & Style

REVIEW:

The Avengers divide in revitalizing 'Civil War'

By LINDSEY BAHR
AP FILM WRITER

AP
In this image released by Disney, Anthony Mackie, from left, Paul Rudd, Jeremy Renner, Chris Evans, Elizabeth Olsen and Sebastian Stan appear in a scene from "Captain America: Civil War."

Conventional movie wisdom would suggest that there can only be diminishing returns with long-running franchises. There must be a breaking point, right? Especially at movie four, five, six and beyond. There are exceptions, sure, but even the painstakingly plotted Marvel films have had low points.

And yet in the ashes of "Avengers: Age of Ultron," the brain trust behind Marvel Studios and directors Joe and Anthony Russo have built what is easily one of the strongest films of their so-called cinematic universe with "Captain America: Civil War," an engaging, lively and just flat out fun use of the characters we've gotten to know across the last eight years and 12 films.

As our interest waned in the prospect of yet another supervillain threatening to destroy an entire city or planet, Marvel smartly pivoted and turned the conflict inward. With the near inevitability of a civilian death toll any time the Avengers are involved in an incident, the UN steps in with an accord proposing regulation and oversight. Essentially now, the Avengers need permission before they jump into action.

Tony Stark/Iron Man (Robert Downey Jr.) is for it. Steve Rogers/Captain America (Chris Evans) is against it. And the rest of the Avengers must decide where they side, leading to some interesting alliances—like Black Widow (Scarlett Johansson) going against her pal Cap, Hawkeye (Jeremy Renner) positioning against his friend Black Widow, and so on.

Some of it is rather silly, especially the villain Zemo, whose somewhat nonsense plan leaves a lot to chance and coincidence. Daniel Brühl, as always, is great in the role, but still little more than a plot device□as though the screenwriters thought that it would be too dark for the good guys to fracture without a push from a manipulative outsider.

The good news is that this Avengers movie in disguise keeps everything rather intimate for a superhero movie. There are only so many times these films can get away with scenes of massive destruction—the thrill (and horror) of the spectacle starts to dull. In "Civil War" the combat is mostly hand-to-hand, the stakes are personal, and the set pieces small. The showdown of the superhero teams is confined to an airport runway, for instance.

That airport sequence, by the way, is exceptionally entertaining. It's both witty and visually engaging and worth the price of admission. Cap, Falcon (Anthony Mackie), Scarlet Witch (Elizabeth Olsen), Hawkeye, Ant-Man (Paul Rudd) and the Winter Soldier (Sebastian Stan) face off against Iron Man, Black Widow, War Machine (Don Cheadle), Vision (Paul Bettany) and the two newbies, Spider-Man (Tom Holland) and Black Panther (Chadwick Boseman).

It's also hard not to be a little cynical about the obvious corporate machinations of "Civil War," like the introduction of Spider-Man and Black Panther—two characters who we already know are getting their own movies. Every moment with them feels like a trailer, and like the best trailers, we see only the finest stuff. "Civil War" dares you to not be won over by Holland's youthful comedic charm and Boseman's depth as the stoic prince in the killer suit.

We also can conjecture, for instance, that Spider-Man doesn't ultimately have much of an impact on the plot because the actual Spider-Man movie will eventually come from Sony, not Disney. Does any of this really matter if the movies are good? No, of course not. We just know too much about the roadmap to make any of it seem spontaneous, surprising and organic. Characters can't just break out from the pack on their own merits. If they could, Marvel probably would have resurrected the idea for a Black Widow movie by now.

The thing is, Marvel makes it funny, and that charm and care is what has and will keep audiences coming back over and over again.

"Captain America: Civil War," a Walt Disney Studios release, is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association of America for "extended sequences of violence, action and mayhem." Running time: 147 minutes. Three stars out of four.

Prince siblings in probate court in 1st hearing on estate

CHASKA, Minn. (AP)—Five of Prince's six surviving siblings appeared in court Monday for the first hearing to start sorting out an estate certain to be worth millions, a task complicated because the star musician isn't known to have left a will.

In a hearing that lasted a little over 12 minutes, Carver County District Judge Kevin Eide formalized his appointment last week of Bremer Trust to handle matters involving the estate of Prince, who died suddenly last month at age 57.

Prince's sister, Tyka Nelson, requested the appointment so that the company can manage Prince's estate until an executor is named. Eide asked the packed courtroom whether anyone knew of a will, and the courtroom was silent. Lawyers for Bremer Trust said they hadn't found one but would keep looking.

"The court is not finding that there is no will, but that no will has yet been found," the judge said.

AP
Tyka Nelson, center, the sister of Prince, is escorted by unidentified people as she leaves the Carver County Courthouse Monday, May 2, 2016, in Chaska, Minn. where a judge confirmed the appointment of a special administrator to oversee the settlement of Prince's estate.

The hearing didn't address how long the estate may take to settle or how much it is worth. His property holdings alone in Minnesota, including his Paisely Park studios in the Minneapolis suburb of Chanhassen, were worth about $27 million, but music industry experts say his earnings after death are likely to be far more.

Tyka Nelson is Prince's only full sibling. Four half-siblings—Alfred Jackson, Norrine Nelson, Sharon Nelson and Omarr Baker—were present. A fifth, John Nelson, didn't attend.

Norrine Nelson and Sharon Nelson exchanged a hug in the courtroom, and family members chatted quietly. Tyka Nelson sat at a table between her two lawyers, while the four others sat side-by-side in the well, just behind their lawyers. None of the siblings commented afterward.

Frank Wheaton, an attorney for Alfred Jackson, said afterward that the siblings were cooperating in settling the estate.

"Everyone is in full accord," he said.

Even if all the heirs really are in agreement, it's going to take a long time to settle the estate, Judith Younger, a University of Minnesota law professor who isn't involved in the case, told The Associated Press. Other claimants are likely to come forward, any disagreements with tax authorities over the value of the estate could result in litigation, and Minnesota courts haven't settled yet whether the rights to someone's likeness, such as Prince's, can be inherited.

"It a real mess that he left behind," she said.

It's also possible that a will could turn up and that it could lead to fights over its validity, Younger said.

"I find it so hard to believe," Younger said, noting how careful Prince was to keep control of his music and other business affairs. "How can there not be a will?"

Susan Link, a Minneapolis estate attorney who also isn't involved in the case, said she doesn't think any of the lawyers involved will "fan the fire" of any discord among the siblings and that their decision last week to sit the siblings down together was a good move. If the siblings can't agree, the personal representative will be going to court a lot, she said.

A law enforcement official told the AP that investigators are looking into whether Prince, who was found dead at his home on April 21, died from an overdose and whether a doctor was prescribing him drugs in the weeks beforehand. The official has been briefed on the investigation and spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

Eide did not set a date for future proceedings. But he noted the intense interest in the case, as reflected by the throng of media and lawyers inside and outside what would normally be a quiet suburban courtroom.

"We're not used to this much notoriety in Carver County," the judge said.

Oprah Winfrey to star in HBO's 'Henrietta Lacks' movie

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Oprah Winfrey is expanding her participation in HBO's "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks" to an on-screen role.

The cable channel said Monday that Winfrey will star in the TV movie that she's been shepherding as an executive producer.

The film is based on Rebecca Skloot's nonfiction book of the same name. It details the story of Henrietta Lacks, an African-American woman whose cancerous cells became the source of medical breakthroughs.

The story will be told from the perspective of Lacks' daughter, Deborah, to be played by Winfrey.

Veteran Broadway director-producer George C. Wolfe will direct the HBO project from his screenplay.

Filming is scheduled to begin this summer, with an air date yet to be announced.

AP

In this Oct. 14, 2015 file photo, Oprah Winfrey attends the premiere of the Oprah Winfrey Network's (OWN) documentary series "Belief,"in New York.

White House: Obama not offended by comedian's language

WASHINGTON (AP)—The White House said Monday that President Barack Obama wasn't offended by comedian Larry Wilmore's use of a racial slur at Saturday night's White House Correspondents' Association dinner.

Wilmore concluded his remarks noting progress on race and how much it meant to him that a black man was president. He concluded: "Yo Barry, you did it, my n----. You did it."

White House spokesman Josh Earnest said he talked with Obama, and Obama appreciated the spirit of racial progress Wilmore was trying to convey.

Earnest said the White House didn't see Wilmore's speech beforehand. Earnest also said he's confident Wilmore used the word by design and was seeking to be provocative.

But Earnest said any fair reading makes clear that Wilmore's sentiments of racial progress "came from a genuine place."

Wilmore, on his Comedy Central show Monday, noted: "Like the president himself, the reaction was mixed," a joking reference to Obama's black father and white mother.

"I completely understand why people would be upset about that," Wilmore said on "The Nightly Show." ''It's a very charged word—I get it."

He said one critic, former CNN host Piers Morgan, had misquoted him by saying Wilmore used the word ending in "er." Instead, Wilmore pointed out he used it ending in "a," which he said was a term of endearment some black people use between each other to take back the power of the word to denigrate.

AP

Larry Wilmore, the guest host from Comedy Central, speaks at the annual White House Correspondents' Association dinner at the Washington Hilton in Washington, Saturday, April 30, 2016.

Johnny Weir, Tara Lipinski to be Olympic correspondents

NEW YORK (AP)—Johnny Weir and Tara Lipinski will serve as correspondents for NBC's coverage of the Rio de Janeiro Olympics.

The network announced Monday that the NBC Sports figure skating analysts will explore Rio's culture, sights, sounds and fashion in August during the games.

Says Jim Bell, executive producer of NBC Olympics, "We are thrilled to have Johnny and Tara join us in Rio, a city whose color, vibrancy and spirit is a perfect match with their own."

The two former Olympians attracted attention for their rapport and fashion sense in an understudy role at the Sochi Games in 2014. NBC then made them its top figure skating broadcast team.

Weir and Lipinski began preparing for their latest gig at Rio's Carnival festival in February.

The pair also will serve as fashion and lifestyle experts for the Kentucky Derby on Saturday.

Judge: Jail visitation restrictions on Suge Knight are valid

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A judge rejected a motion by Marion "Suge" Knight's attorney to restore the former rap mogul's visits with family and receive mail and phone calls while he awaits trial in a murder case.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge William C. Ryan ruled Thursday that jail officials properly obtained an order earlier this year to restrict Knight's contact with the outside world to preserve jail security. Details about why the order was obtained remain under seal, but Ryan's ruling states it was done "to ensure institutional security" and not to punish the Death Row Records co-founder

Knight, 51, has pleaded not guilty to murder and attempted murder charges filed last year after he ran over two men outside a burger stand in Compton, California. He told a judge on April 21 that the restrictions were hampering his defense, which Ryan said was not the intention of the restrictions.

Knight's elderly parents are among those who have been unable to visit Knight since his visitation rights were rescinded in February. Ryan wrote that they can petition to visit their son and the request will be considered.

Knight's attorney Thaddeus Culpepper said he believes Ryan's order misstates the law.

AP

In this July 17, 2015 file photo, Marion "Suge" Knight sits in court during a bail hearing in his murder case, in Los Angeles.

Man abused as child may need to confront it as adult

DEAR ABBY: I have been in a serious relationship with my boyfriend for two years. He shared with me that he was sexually abused by a cousin for years as a child. He told me he has never disclosed it to anyone but me.

My boyfriend says he has come to terms with the abuse and his abuser, but I'm not sure it's true. He became really upset when he spoke about it the one time, and we haven't discussed it since.

I'm afraid to pry, but I think he may need help. His abuser is still present in his life. I'm not sure what's stopping him from seeking help. What do you think I should do?

ONLY TRYING TO HELP IN OHIO

DEAR ONLY TRYING TO HELP: Your boyfriend may not have discussed what happened because of fear or embarrassment, or because his abuser made him feel it was his fault. When someone is abused for years, that person is the victim of a predator.

Talk to him again about this. I agree that he should consult a mental health professional. Not only would it help him, but because therapists are "mandated reporters," it would also ensure that this cousin doesn't sexually abuse other children.

DEAR ABBY: I had an affair years ago, and I recently confessed to my spouse that our child isn't his. Things are really bad now between the two of us, and I don't think we are going to make it. My question is, do I tell my child the truth?

IMPERFECT MOM IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR IMPERFECT: At some point your child will need to know his or her entire medical history. He or she may also wish to meet the biological father. If your child is young, the news can wait. But if he or she is nearing adulthood, that information could be important in case there are diseases that run in the father's family—diabetes, heart disease, cancer and Alzheimer's among them.

DEAR ABBY: We often go out to dinner with another couple and have done so for several years. It has become increasingly embarrassing because of the demands they place on the servers.

They always want more butter (and often demand it before the rolls or bread are served), they want more sauce, more gravy, more cheese, more dressing, then more bread, butter, syrup—basically more of everything. Then they feel compelled to let the server know what was wrong with the meal after we are finished.

How can my wife and I bow out of dinner dates with them without canceling all other social activities we do together?

DESPERATE AT DINNER

DEAR DESPERATE: I can see how eating with a couple like that could give someone indigestion. You don't have to cut them off completely, just be less and less available for those dinners.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

SPACEMAN SPIFF CLOSES IN ON THE ALIEN VESSEL!
THE ALIEN, BEING UNNATURALLY STUPID, IS BLISSFULLY IGNORANT OF ITS IMMINENT DOOM!
OUR HERO LOCKS ONTO TARGET AND WARMS UP HIS FRAP-RAY BLASTER!
MISS WORMWOOD!!
ZOUNDS! A GORKON DEATH STATION APPEARS! EVASIVE ACTION!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

SO YOUR NOVEL'S BEEN REJECTED A FEW TIMES. ALL AUTHORS GET REJECTION LETTERS.
AND WHEN YOU DO GET PUBLISHED, THOSE LETTERS WILL BE A BADGE OF COURAGE.
SIP
I DO LIKE BADGES.
THERE YOU GO. WE CAN MAKE YOU A REJECTION LETTER JACKET.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

WHAT IS THIS YOU'RE LISTENING TO?
IT'S A STATION WHERE PEOPLE CALL IN TO ARGUE POLITICS AND RELIGION, AND SOMETIMES DISCUSS THEIR CAT OR FAVORITE RECIPE.
IT'S CALLED "FACEBOOK RADIO."

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

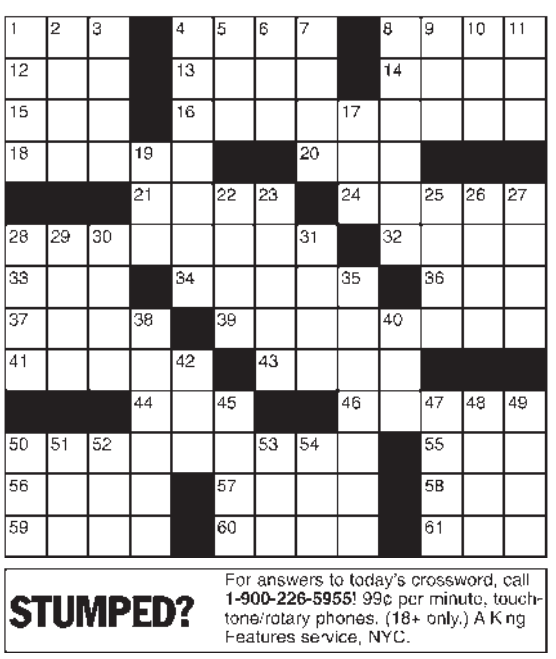
ACROSS
1 Favorite
4 Campaign-funding gps.
8 Long tale
12 Expert
13 Russian river
14 Pub orders
15 Gun lobby org.
16 "Columbo" portrayer
18 Dutch bloom
20 Teeny
21 Greek cheese
24 Jellied entree
28 "We should discuss this"
32 One of the Jackson 5
33 Have debts
34 Sailing vessel
36 — Salvador
37 Endure
39 Easy task
41 Thoreau piece
43 Nickelodeon's "Explorer"
44 Service charge
46 Milk dispenser
50 Vaccine pioneer
55 Flamenco cheer
56 Bassoon's kin
57 Sheltered
58 Edge
59 Lass
60 Sci-fi vehicles
61 Crucial

DOWN
1 Huff and puff
2 Off-white
3 Pond duck
4 Marionettes
5 Exist
6 Garfield, for one
7 Dispatched
8 Least risky
9 Mode lead-in
10 Solidify
11 Request
17 Actor Stephen
19 Conditions
22 Body powder
23 "Get — of this!"
25 Tower city
26 Slanted type (Abbr.)
27 Hit on the noggin
28 Earring site
29 Rams' fans?
30 Herbal brews
31 "Mikado" character
35 Wigs
38 Tennis star Nadal
40 Bankroll
42 "You bet!"
45 Birthright barterer
47 Dweeb
48 Author Wiesel
49 — Martin (cognac)
50 Run for fun
51 Kimono sash
52 Fish-fowl insert
53 TV alien
54 Zodiac cat

Solution time: 23 mins.

V	A	I	S		P	L	A	N		J	A	W
A	L	C	U		R	E	N	O		U	R	I
L	A	R	G	E	E	G	G	S		M	A	R
			A	L	P	O		H	U	B	B	Y
A	N	G	R	Y			S	O	S	O		
L	E	I	S		H	I	A	W	A	I	H	A
E	R	A		F	I	N	K	S		R	I	P
C	O	N	C	R	E		E		H	O	P	S
		T	E	E	S			M	A	N	S	E
A	I	S	I	F		A	A	R	P			
M	O	T		B	I	G	C	I	P	P	E	R
O	W	E		I	D	E	A		E	R	M	A
S	A	P		E	A	S	Y		N	O	U	N

Yesterday's answer 5-4



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Rory McIlroy, 27; Erin Andrews, 38; Will Arnett, 46; Randy Travis, 57.

Happy Birthday: Reason your way through any situation you face this year. Don't take the path of least resistance if it won't lead you toward the things you want to pursue. Pick your battles wisely, and avoid conflict when possible. Opportunities will be present if you are willing to look for them. Do your best to take advantage of what's being offered. Your numbers are 5, 9, 16, 22, 30, 36, 49.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Present what you know and who you are with dignity, courage and pizzazz. Sharing thoughts with someone who is knowledgeable will clear up any misconceptions or confusion you face. A joint effort will help you reduce your overhead. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Stay focused on what's important. Finishing what you start will make a difference in how others view you. A chance to try something different will bring out a new skill or attribute you didn't know you possessed. Love is featured. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Review the past to ensure you don't make the same mistake twice. You have options, and with a little ingenuity you will be able to recognize what is legitimate and what is not. Trust your intuition to guide you when dealing with relationships. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Taking a different approach in regard to how you use your skills will pay off. Avoid unpredictable people who may be using emotional tactics to manipulate a decision you have to make. Trust in what you see, not what you hear. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): A change will do you good. Energetic activities that allow you to show off will attract interest. A colleague or relative may put up a fuss if you resist their ideas. Decide what's best for you instead of giving in to others. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't jump into a fast-cash scheme when you should be putting your money into building your personal assets. Research and gathering firsthand information will help you avoid a costly mistake. Do what feels right to you. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Planning a trip or event with friends or relatives is favored. Make necessary changes in your relationships with the people who mean the most to you. Use your emotional insight to back up the decisions you make. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Be open to unusual ideas and concepts. Make an effort to improve your relationships with the people you deal with. An unexpected opportunity will lead to greater insight and important lifestyle changes. Make romance a priority. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Listen to what's being said, but make your decisions based on facts. Bring about the changes that will help you head in the right direction. Don't take part in gossip. Avoid people who tend to meddle and interfere. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Sidestep anyone who is using emotional manipulation to bring about changes that aren't to your benefit. Focus on protecting what you have worked so hard to achieve. Call in a favor if it will put an end to a bad situation. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Hard work will pay off. Make professional changes that will allow you to use both your physical and mental skills. An old idea or plan can be put into play now. Express your feelings to avoid being misunderstood. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't let yourself be goaded into an argument. Bring about changes in a discreet manner. Someone from your past will help you make your dreams come true. Romance is on the rise and will improve your personal life. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are entrepreneurial and entertaining. You choose quality over quantity.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

1	6	9						
5			1			2		
4		3		8		6	7	
	5			3				
		1	9		8	5		
				5			2	
		4		7		1		3
	1				6			2
2						9	5	6

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/04

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

3	2	5	7	4	8	9	6	1
1	4	7	9	5	6	2	3	8
6	9	8	3	2	1	5	4	7
7	3	6	1	8	2	4	5	9
9	8	4	6	7	5	1	2	3
2	5	1	4	3	9	8	7	6
8	7	3	2	1	4	6	9	5
5	6	2	8	9	3	7	1	4
4	1	9	5	6	7	3	8	2

Difficulty Level ★★ 4/27

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

THE PHILIPPINES — Solution: 11 letters

C	I	B	U	S	O	B	I	L	I	R	A	N	U	R
N	O	Z	U	L	I	S	Y	A	N	A	P	A	L	O
R	R	R	O	C	A	M	P	L	A	M	A	S	U	J
O	O	J	O	M	A	A	I	S	L	A	N	D	S	I
M	P	L	A	N	L	I	B	M	A	Y	G	B	W	U
B	U	R	I	A	S	H	E	L	L	U	U	A	N	Q
L	T	L	W	B	O	A	K	R	C	G	T	O	T	I
O	A	A	G	U	F	U	A	A	S	I	A	E	A	S
N	N	S	B	C	B	G	B	U	W	N	R	C	P	C
A	N	A	U	A	N	A	K	A	A	H	A	I	A	O
T	O	Y	T	A	L	I	T	P	P	E	N	R	Ⓐ	A
C	I	A	U	A	L	A	P	U	A	O	A	V	Ⓔ	C
A	L	S	B	A	O	A	N	A	D	G	A	C	Ⓢ	I
M	U	I	I	G	O	O	A	N	A	D	N	I	M	T
B	C	V	S	T	I	R	A	B	O	R	A	C	A	Y

©2016 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com Download the Wonderword Game App! 5/4

Alabat, Ambil, Apuao, Balabac, Barit, Bicol, Biliran, Boracay, Bugsuk, Burias, Busuanga, Cagdanao, Caraga, Coron, Culion, Davao, Fuga, Guyam, Islands, Jolo, Kaob, Luzon, Mactan, Manila, Mindanao, Palawan, Panaon, Panay, Pangutaran, Poro, Rice, Romblon, Samal, Samar, Sea, Shell, Sibutu, Siquijor, Subic, Sulu, Tabuk, Tapa, Tawi Tawi, Ticao, Visayas

Yesterday's Answer: Pedestrian

Treasury 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 or 21 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contain 133 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

WHATZIT Solution: Jack and the Beanstalk

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

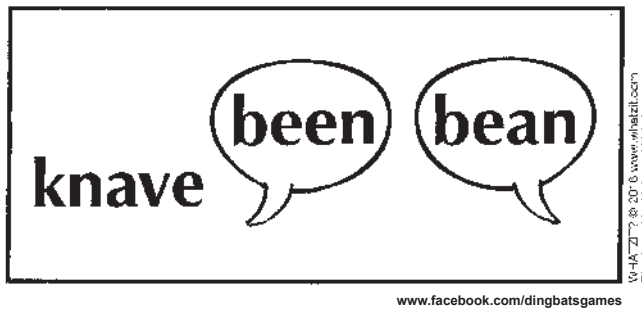
Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT? ™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



Find today's solution in classified section

Job Vacancy Announcement

(1) HVAC Technician $6.55-7.00 per hour

- Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 2 years' experience as a HVAC Technician-Install, service, or repair heating and air conditioning systems in residences or commercial establishments.
- Test pipe or tubing joints or connections for leaks, using pressure gauge or soap-and-water solution.
- Test electrical circuits or components for continuity, using electrical test equipment.
- Repair or replace defective equipment, components, or wiring.
- Discuss heating or cooling system malfunctions with users to isolate problems or to verify that repairs corrected malfunctions. Repair or service heating, ventilating, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems to improve efficiency, such as by changing filters, cleaning ducts, or refilling non-toxic refrigerants.

All positions close on May 09, 2016. Interested applicants may apply at GPPC,INC. office located at As Perdido, Saipan. A copy of police clearance must be attached to the application. Incomplete application will NOT be accepted. Skills, testing maybe required. GPPC, INC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

COUNTRY HOUSE/MOBY DICK RESTAURANT

LOOKING FOR

COOK

WITH 2 YEARS EXPERIENCE.
Minimum Wage with considerable benefit.

TEL: 233-8223
Please send application to
COUNTRY HOUSE/MOBY DICK

JAGUAR LIMITED
DBA CLUB MERMAID

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(5) WAITRESS
2-3 years experience as a waitress in a Night Bar or an Entertainment Business
Salary: $ 6.05 per hour

Other Qualifications:
- At least 21-25 years old with pleasing personality
- Full time with flexible working hours
- Preferably can speak Japanese language fluently

(5) GENERAL MAINTENANCE
Salary: $ 6.05 per hour

Qualifications:
- At least 2-3 years experience as a Commercial Building Maintenance. Preferably in Carpentry and Masonry
- Full time with flexible working hours

Please mail your resume to
PMB 697 Box 10000, Saipan, MP 96950 or
contact our Office at Tel. (670) 233-1545
between 2:30PM – 9:00PM

JAGUAR LIMITED
DBA CLUB MERMAID

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) Bartender
- $6.05/hr.
- Must have 3-5 years work related experience

All applicants must be able to work flexible hours.
If interested, please mail resume to PMB 697 Box 10000, Saipan MP 96950 or call our office at 670-233-1545 between 2:30pm to 9:00pm.

CTSI Logistics is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

Sales Officer

Associate's Degree in Sales or Marketing and at least 3 years work related experience are required as well as an extensive knowledge and experience in supply chain and freight brokerage. Must have his/her own reliable transportation. Can work flexible hours. Must be able to meet monthly sales targets and have extensive contacts in various industries. Proficiency in freight forwarding, shipping and household goods operations are a must. Must be familiar with freight forwarding software.

A pre-employment drug testing will be required. Salaries will be commensurate with qualification and experience. For applications to be considered, they should submit resume / application to CTSI Logistics, Lower Base not later than May 13, 2016.

We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

JINAIR

JOB VACANY ANNOUNCEMENT

JinAir is currently seeking for qualified, energetic and self-motivated individuals to join Saipan regional office. JinAir will start to fly to Saipan from June 9th 2016.

- Job Position: Passenger service and cargo operation, day-to-day airline administration.
- Number of hiring: Until hired.
- Qualifications
  - Fluent in English and Korean, both speaking and writing.
  - Good Verbal and written communication skills.
  - Must be able to multi-task and handle time-sensitive assignments.
  - Experience in Airline, airport or sales/reservation/ticketing is preferred.
  - Must be legally authorized to work in the U.S.
  - Team player and customer service oriented attitude.
- Please submit your resume by May 6th,Fri 2016.
- Mail your resume to : P.O. BOX 504930, Saipan MP 96950

Attn: **JINAIR representative.**

Warehouse for RENT

REM LOWERBASE
Warehouse #3 - Size: 6,000sq/ft
$0.65 per sq/ft. Negotiable

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL
235-6527/28 or 285-1317

WANTED

Cement Laborer

- Cement handling experience preferred.
- Will train motivated individuals
- Wages based on experience

Apply in person at
Hanson Micronesia Cement Inc.
Tel: 670 322-3333

JAPAN ENTERPRISES CORP.
DBA CLUB MICRONESIA

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(5) WAITRESS
2-3 years experience as a waitress in a Night Bar or an Entertainment Business
Salary: $ 6.05 per hour

Other Qualifications:
- At least 21-25 years old with pleasing personality
- Full time with flexible working hours
- Preferably can speak Japanese language fluently

(5) GENERAL MAINTENANCE
Salary: $ 6.05 per hour

Qualifications:
- At least 2-3 years experience as a Commercial Building Maintenance. Preferably in Carpentry and Masonry
- Full time with flexible working hours

Please mail your resume to
P.O. Box 502589, Saipan, MP 96950 or
contact our Office at Tel. (670) 233-1545

EMPLOYMENT

1 Operations Manager: $6.05-$7.50/hr. At least 5 years of managerial experience required. 1 Cook (Korean cuisine): $6.05/hr. At least 2 years of professional cooking experience in Korean cuisine required. Email resume to wing@hanmisaipan.com.

Looking for Network Marketers. Earn additional income. Email resume to opportunity@valuepacific.net

(1) Commercial Cleaner, (1) Sales Representative. Minimum salary. Send resume to SMJ Corporation. P.O. Box 503944 Saipan, MP 96950.

WORLD INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(5) WAITRESS
2-3 years experience as a waitress in a Night Bar or an Entertainment Business
Salary: $ 6.05 per hour

Other Qualifications:
- At least 21-25 years old with pleasing personality
- Full time with flexible working hours
- Preferably can speak Japanese language fluently

(5) GENERAL MAINTENANCE
Salary: $ 6.05 per hour

Qualifications:
- At least 2-3 years experience as a Commercial Building Maintenance. Preferably in Carpentry and Masonry
- Full time with flexible working hours

Please mail your resume to
PMB 654 Box 10000 Saipan, MP 96950 or
contact our Office at Tel.: (670) 233-1545
between 2:30PM to 9:00PM.

MAKE-A-WISH®

Visit us at 865 S. Marine Dr.,
Orlean Pacific Plaza Ste. 104 Tamuning, Guam 96913
Tel: (671) 649-WISH • Fax: (671) 646-6293
Email: mawfguam@ite.net • www.wish.org
Office Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm, M-F daily

Saipan Tribune

JVA for YANO Enterprises, Inc.
Dba: Kinpachi Restaurant

Yano Enterprises, Inc.:

Restaurant Waitress (3): (Full time) Greeting Customers. Must be able to speak basic Japanese & efficient English & have a friendly & outgoing personality. Should be knowledgeable of the restaurant dishes, familiar with the entire menu the establishment offers. Can introduce & recommend daily specials as well as the restaurant's regular menu items. Continued services after the meal have been served and accept payments & other duties related.

Cook (3): Must be experienced & skilled in preparing Japanese cuisine including but not limited to sushi, sashimi, & tempura. Can prepare all menu items according to quantity menus, must know cutting and preparation techniques for each type of fish used in sushi rolls as well as how to prepare rice, sauces and seasonal ingredients, must ensure that ingredients are fresh, colorful and always in stock, that the all-important knives are sharp and clean, and that all equipment is in working order. Must be able to maintain kitchen & observe safety & sanitary food handling practices as well as other related duties.

Additional Requirements: All applicants must be of good health and have a good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standards, must be able to obtain required food handler health certificate, must be able to provide current police clearance, with reliable transportation and must agree to drug test. Can work in flexible hours including weekends and night time.

Applicants of positions listed above Restaurant Waitress (3 months work experience) are required and Cook must have a minimum of 2 - 4 year experience. Applications can be picked up at Kinpachi Restaurant in coral Tree Avenue, Garapan.
We are an equal opportunity employer. Qualified applicants will be considered.
Applications can be picked up at Kinpachi Restaurant in Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan.

Please no phone calls.

PLACE YOUR ADVERT HERE!
For opportunities contact us at
235-6397

CIP PROGRAM OFFICE, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

INVITATION TO BID
ITB16-GOV-103 Rota Municipal Solid Waste Improvement Project

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the CIP Program Office are soliciting sealed bids for the Rota Municipal Solid Waste Improvement Project in Tatachok on Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project package will be available April 20, 2016 at the CIP Program Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan. A $250.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. **All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.**

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be a pre-bid conference meeting on Friday, May 6, 2016, 10:00 a.m. ChST at the Rota Mayor's Office conference room followed by a site visit to the project site. All inquiries regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. ChST, May 13, 2016 to the CIP Program Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or via email to esb.cip@gmail.com (Elizabeth S. Balajadia, P.E., CIP Project Manager), or fax (670) 664-2408. All responses to inquiries will be shared with all prospective contractors.

Sealed bids must be marked ITB16-GOV-103 Rota Municipal Solid Waste Improvement Project. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan no later than 9:00 a.m. ChST, May 20, 2016. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 9:00 a.m. ChST, May 20, 2016 and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than May 20, 2016 and the bid documents must be received no later than May 31, 2016. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. ChST, June 2, 2016. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be open at 10:00 a.m. ChST, May 20, 2016.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashier's check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00.

Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract. Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Government Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is Two Hundred Ten (210) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) Five Hundred Dollars ($500.00) per day, or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by 210 calendar days, the contract time and will be accessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ Ralph DLG. Torres,
Governor

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
CNMI Procurement & Supply

American Red Cross

Saipan Long-Term Recovery Project

Now Hiring:

Caseworker
Construction Analyst
Data Support Coordinator
Program Manager

www.americanredcross.apply2jobs.com

The American Red Cross is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, color, religion, national origin, disability, protected veteran status, age, or any other characteristic protected by law.

SPORTS
To live and dive on Saipan
HYDRATION 101: THE GOOD, THE BAD, THE UGLY
KOBEE AND HIS HOOPS DREAMS
FATHER RYAN'S SPIRITUAL CALL
JUAN CAMACHO DELIVERS IN THE COURT
DOVE WOMEN'S FOOTBALL LEAGUE FLIES HIGH
PLUS BUY A BICYCLE BIKE TO WORK FAVORITE TRAILS

TAGA *Sports* is now on issuu.com/tagasports!

Check out the latest issue and back issues of TAGA Sports, the CNMI's first and premier sports magazine, on issuu.com/tagasports!

Now you won't have to miss a copy of TAGA Sports. Visit issuu.com/tagasports to get your fix on all sports happenings in the CNMI!

To inquire about ad rates or to place an ad, call (670) 235-2440, 235-6397, 235-8747.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 16-024

Opening Date: Monday, May 02, 2016
Closing Date: Friday, May 13, 2016

Trades Assistant

Duties: Under the direct supervision of the Drinking Water & Wastewater Division Manager or his/her designee. Assists with installations, repairs and general maintenance in assigned service area; operates motorized vehicles, equipment machinery, and hand and power tools. Performs routine and preventative maintenance on equipment, vehicles, systems and/or infrastructure; performs basic inspections; and conducts basic troubleshooting of issues. Responds to trouble calls as needed. Prepares job site for work including gathering and setting up materials and supplies, and setting work safety barriers for protection and to direct traffic flow away from work site. Gathers, cleans and returns equipment, materials and supplies used. Cleans and maintains work site after project or repair work is complete. Monitors equipment; takes readings and collects data; documents equipment readings; prepares and submits data and work reports. Performs inventory spot checks to ensure adequate materials and supplies are available for daily maintenance activities. Performing daily well and pump station facility maintenance, cleaning and monitoring; Assisting plumbing and chlorine maintenance crew; Utilizing digging equipment for locating and repairing leaks; Repairing and securing pressure reducer valves, main valves, service lines and laterals, and booster pumps; Assisting with meter installation and repair; Collecting water samples. Must be able to lift objects weighing at 40 lbs. or more. Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

LOCATION : Water Division, **Saipan**, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY : $16,742.00 per annum.
CONTRACT : Not Contracted.
POSITION(S) : Seven (7)

Minimum Requirements: High School Diploma or GED or ABE Program AS. Knowledge of: Customer service principles; Basic mathematical concepts; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology. Skills in: Providing customer service; Reading maps and drawings; Operating heavy and light equipment machinery, hand and power tools required of assigned area; Adhering to safety procedures and safe work practices; Prioritizing tasks and managing time for efficiency; Identifying issues and solving problems; Providing attention to detail; Taking equipment readings and recording data; Maintaining activity logs and reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Applicants may be tested. Subject to pre-employment drug test.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer
P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950-1220 U.S.A. • Tel. Nos. (670) 235-7025 to 32 Fax (670) 235-5131

Thunder hold on to beat Spurs, even series at 1-1

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Russell Westbrook had 29 points and 10 assists, and the Oklahoma City Thunder held on to beat San Antonio 98-97 on Monday night, evening the series at one game apiece when the Spurs failed to score on a wild sequence in the final seconds.

Kevin Durant added 28 points as the Thunder handed the Spurs just their second home loss of the season, rebounding from a 32-point beating in Game 1.

San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich complained to officials after the game that Dion Waiters went over the allotted five seconds to inbound the ball on Oklahoma City's final possession. Replays showed Waiters elbowed Manu Ginobili to get the space needed to pass the ball to Durant, who was immediately stripped by Danny Green. Patty Mills missed an open 3-pointer, LaMarcus Aldridge lost the ball after grabbing the airball and Kawhi Leonard was unable to gather the ball before the buzzer sounded.

Aldridge had 41 points, but the Spurs shot 43 percent as a team after shooting 61 percent in the series opener.

Leonard was held to 14 points on 7-for-18 shooting. Ginobili was the only other San Antonio player in double figures, scoring 11 points on 5-for-8 shooting.

San Antonio missed 12 of its first 13 shots, struggling to even hit the rim after seemingly making every shot it took in the opening quarter of Game 1. The Spurs missed six layups and Green awkwardly tossed a hard runner that ricocheted off the backboard.

Game 3 is Friday at Oklahoma City.

Aldridge had 13 points in the final quarter, including a pair of three-point plays. The All-Star forward drained his second 3-pointer of the season to pull San Antonio within 96-94 and then made three free throws after being fouled by Serge Ibaka to pull the Spurs within 98-97 with 13.5 seconds to set up the final play.

The series of missteps almost wiped away a strong outing by the Thunder.

Oklahoma City moved the ball much better than it did in the opener, providing the space it needed against San Antonio's collapsing defense and providing Westbrook with room to drive and set up teammates, including a thunderous dunk by Stephen Adams after a pass backward.

Oklahoma City had lost 15 games this season when leading after the third quarter, including the playoffs. . The Thunder's backup backcourt of Waiters and Cameron Payne has combined for 17 points on 5-for-20 shooting and six assists. . F Nick Collison did not play after scoring two points in 19 minutes in the series opener.

AP

Oklahoma City Thunder guard Russell Westbrook (0) attempts a shot after getting through San Antonio Spurs' Danny Green, left, and Tony Parker (9) during the first half in Game 2 of a second-round NBA basketball playoff series, Monday, May 2, 2016, in San Antonio.

Aldridge raised his postseason scoring average by five points to 19.2 following his 32-point outing in Game 1. The All-Star forward was limited to 14.5 points in San Antonio's four-game sweep of Memphis. .. Ginobili is third in postseason 3-pointers at 306, trailing former Indiana Pacers star Reggie Miller by 14 for second. Ray Allen holds the record with 385. . The sellout crowd went wild when Spurs rookie center Boban Marjanovic entered the game with 9:33 remaining in the first half, his earliest appearance of the postseason. Marjanovic played 3 minutes in the first half, trading a series of elbows, forearm shots and bumps with Adams.

Cavaliers 104, Hawks 93

In Cleveland, rusty, rested or reeling, LeBron James and the Cavaliers find a way to beat the Hawks in the playoffs every time.

James scored 25 points, Kyrie Irving added 21 and Cleveland withstood a strong second-half surge by Atlanta to maintain its chokehold on the Hawks with a 104-93 victory Monday night in the opening game of their second-round Eastern Conference series.

James converted a critical three-point play with 2:09 left for the Cavs, who blew an 18-point lead in the second half and fell behind with 8 minutes left in the fourth quarter before making several clutch plays down the stretch.

Cleveland swept Atlanta in last year's Eastern Conference finals and has won eight straight over the Hawks, moving to 9-0 against them in the postseason.

This was by no means easy, however.

"We needed everything," said James, who gave his team just that, adding nine assists, seven rebounds and five steals. "We played an OK game. I don't think we played to our standards. The first game is always kind of a feel-out."

Dennis Schroder scored a playoff career-high 27 and rallied the Hawks before they crumbled in the closing minutes. Atlanta's offense bogged down in crunch time and the Hawks only scored two field goals in the final 4 minutes.

Paul Millsap had 17 points and 13 rebounds, and Kent Bazemore added 16 points for Atlanta, which got just eight points from Jeff Teague.

Game 2 is Wednesday night.

Despite the loss, the Hawks were mostly pleased with their effort.

"We felt good that we gave ourselves a chance," said Bazemore, who left the floor clapping his hands. "No moral victories, but you want to keep your mojo positive. We'll get another crack."

James' three-point play, which he punctuated by flexing his biceps, came after he stripped the ball from Schroder and the Cavs kept their possession alive with a pair of offensive rebounds, one by Tristan Thompson, the other by J.R. Smith.

The Cavs didn't show any rust following an eight-day break after the first round until the third quarter, when their offense slowed and the Hawks got hot. But when it mattered most, the defending conference champions came through, and as always, James led the way.

Kevin Love, who was injured when the teams met in the postseason last year, added 17 points but was just 4 of 17 from the floor and appeared to hurt his right shoulder. Thompson added 14 rebounds, including seven on the offensive end.

Thompson has been a rebounding marvel for the Cavs, comparable to what Dennis Rodman once did for Michael Jordan and the Bulls.

Rivers says Clippers will not trade Paul, Griffin or Jordan

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Doc Rivers said Monday that he would not break up the Los Angeles Clippers' big three of Chris Paul, Blake Griffin and DeAndre Jordan during the offseason—regardless of any trade offers that may arise.

"I like our core and I like our bench, which was really good this year," Rivers said three days after the Clippers were eliminated from the playoffs by the Portland Trail Blazers in six games.

"I think they all want to come back, and we're going to make a strong effort to bring all our guys back. The good news about the free-agent guys who are opting out on their contracts—as they should because everyone knows what we can spend and what we can't spend—I can't find one who doesn't want to be here."

The Clippers are coming off their fourth consecutive season of 50 or more victories.

"We're close, and we know that," Rivers said. "We have a priority of trying to just keep making our team better. Obviously because of the injuries—Blake's in particular—we literally don't know what we could have done. Even during the playoffs, he still wasn't a hundred percent."

Griffin missed 41 games during the regular season because of a left quadriceps injury and played in only five games before the postseason began. He sat out the final two playoff games after re-aggravating the injury in Game 4, but is expected to be healthy again before the start of training camp.

So will Paul, who also missed the past two playoff games because of a broken right hand. So will starting small forward J.J. Redick, who hobbled through the playoffs because of a heel injury and averaged 13.5 points.

"I would love to have seen us a hundred percent healthy going into the season," said Rivers, who doubles as the team's president of basketball operations. "And if we hadn't have won it then (under those circumstances), you would have known exactly what you need to do. So now it's more guesswork. But I think we have a pretty good idea of what to do."

As far as the draft is concerned, Rivers warned against the idea that anyone they choose would be the last piece of the puzzle in their quest for an NBA title -- or even the possibility of getting past the second round of the playoffs for the first time in franchise history.

"We're picking in the mid-20s. So to think you're going to hit a home run or get the guy who's going to take you over the top, it's just silly talk," Rivers said. "I mean, we're going to do a great job in the draft, but historically, it doesn't happen."

Jamal Crawford, who won the NBA's Sixth Man of the Year Award for the third time in his career and second time with the Clippers, is expected to return for his 17th season at age 36.

Then there's Paul Pierce, who will turn 39 shortly after training camp begins. The 17-time All-Star, who helped Rivers win an NBA title in Boston in 2008, is contemplating retirement after being mostly a non-factor in his first year with the Clippers.

"I think he has another season in him, but the whole key is where he wants to be, health-wise, and how he felt during the season. I can't figure that one out," Rivers said. "I mean, he'll ask me what I think, but that's a decision Paul's going to have to make. I think that players thinking about retirement have to come to that conclusion themselves, because it's so personal."

Dreams can come true: Leicester wins title

AP

Leicester's Marc Albrighton, centre right, celebrates with teammates after scoring against Swansea during the English Premier League soccer match between Leicester City and Swansea City at the King Power Stadium in Leicester, England, Sunday, April 24, 2016. Leicester is crowned English Premier League soccer champions following Tottenham Hotspur's 2-2 draw against Chelsea.

LONDON (AP)—Leicester City players crowded around a television inside the house of teammate Jamie Vardy, locked arm in arm, watching the action 100 miles away. And when the final whistle blew at Stamford Bridge, they raised their arms in triumph. One of the greatest sporting achievements in English history was complete.

In the second tier two years ago, in a relegation fight last season, a 5,000-1 long shot last summer, Leicester is now alongside Manchester United, Liverpool and the other clubs who can call themselves champion.

The Foxes clinched the most improbable title of the Premier League era when second-place Tottenham was held to a 2-2 draw at Chelsea on Monday night. With an insurmountable seven-point lead with two games remaining, Leicester is champion of England for the first time in its 132-year history.

"Championes! Championes! Ole! Ole! Ole!" the jubilant Leicester players sang as they jumped up and down with their arms on each other's shoulders inside Vardy's house.

"Nobody believed we could do it, but here we are - Premier League champions and deservedly so," Leicester captain Wes Morgan said. "I've never known a spirit like the one between these boys, we're like brothers."

As recently as 2008-09, Leicester was in third-tier League 1, the equivalent of a Double-A baseball team filled with prospects. Just two years ago, Morgan and many of his teammates were playing in the far-from-glamorous second-tier League Championship. They were last in the Premier League in April 2015 before winning six of their last eight matches to avoid relegation, and at the start of this season betting houses favored them to drop back down.

But on Monday, fans who never dreamed their modest club in an East Midlands city with a population of 330,000 would conquer wealthier rivals descended on Leicester's King Power Stadium to party into the night.

"People saw it last season when everyone expected us to be relegated, but we fought back to prove people wrong," Morgan said. "This season's been a continuation of that. We've built on the momentum, but I don't think anyone believed it would come to this."

Leicester, which will collect the trophy on Saturday when it hosts Everton at home, had not finished higher than second in the top tier since 1929.

English soccer has not had a first-time champion of the top flight since Nottingham Forest in 1978. And for the last 20 years the Premier League trophy has never left London or Manchester, with Arsenal, Chelsea, Manchester United and Manchester City winning all the titles.

Unlike Blackburn's 1995 champions, Leicester has achieved its success without lavish spending.

Chelsea's draw also made Leicester manager Claudio Ranieri a league title winner for the first time in his career, 12 years after the 64-year-old Italian was fired by the Blues.

"It's the greatest achievement in the history of English football and it was led by an Italian," Matteo Renzi, the Italian Prime Minister, tweeted.

Ranieri's task when he replaced the fired Nigel Pearson in July was just to keep Leicester in the Premier League. Instead he has masterminded a sporting feat that will resonate for decades.

"I never expected this when I arrived. I'm a pragmatic man, I just wanted to win match after match and help my players to improve week after week," said Ranieri, who made a brief trip home to Italy on Monday to see his 96-year-old mother. "The players have been fantastic. Their focus, their determination, their spirit has made this possible. Every game they fight for each other and I love to see this in my players."

At Chelsea on Monday night there wasn't bitterness that the Blues were surrendering the title to a footballing minnow but joy that Ranieri was the beneficiary.

"Let's do it for Ranieri," read one Chelsea fan's poster at Stamford Bridge where the trophy was presented to Chelsea last May. Fans chanted "Leicester!" repeatedly during the six minutes of stoppage time.

Chelsea players will form a guard of honor for Leicester's players when they play at the London club in the season finale on May 15.

Leicester missed a chance to seal the title on Sunday when it was held to a draw by Manchester United, but Chelsea got the party started.

Tottenham had to win at Chelsea to keep its bid for a first title since 1961 and led 2-0 on goals from Harry Kane in the 35th minute and Son Heung-min in the 44th, before Chelsea rallied in a fiery London derby where tempers frayed and tackles became wild.

"What a game," Leicester defender Robert Huth tweeted from the team's viewing party. "Makes me look like an angel!"

Gary Cahill scored for Chelsea in the 58th and Eden Hazard equalized in the 83rd. Still, Tottenham clinched no worse than fourth place and qualified for the Champions League for the second time.

Ranieri called Chelsea manager Guus Hiddink to thank him for Chelsea's part in delivering the title to Leicester, which is owned by Thai retail giant King Power.

No sports team has defied such odds to triumph and Leicester's improbable success has provided a feel-good story for a country divided as it prepares to vote on whether to remain in the European Union.

Hammel goes to 4-0, Rizzo hits 2 doubles in Cubs' win

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Jason Hammel raised his record to 4-0 and Anthony Rizzo hit two doubles as the Chicago Cubs beat the Pittsburgh Pirates 7-2 on Monday night.

Hammel's ERA rose to 1.24 after entering the game with a National League-leading 0.75 mark. He gave up two runs and five hits in five-plus innings with three strikeouts and one walk. His streak of five straight starts of allowing one run or fewer ended.

Rizzo hit an RBI double and scored in the third inning as the Cubs went ahead 2-1, then doubled again during a four-run fifth that pushed the lead to 6-1.

The Cubs improved to 18-6, tops in the major leagues, and avoided losing consecutive games for the first time this season while winning for the fifth time in six games.

Nationals 2, Royals 0

In Kansas City, Gio Gonzalez and the Washington bullpen combined on a five-hitter, Ryan Zimmerman and Daniel Murphy drove in first-inning runs and the Nationals beat Kansas City.

Gonzalez (2-1) scattered four hits and a pair of walks over six innings in his latest smooth start.

Mets 4, Braves 1

In New York, David Wright, Yoenis Cespedes and Lucas Duda hit home runs in the first inning as New York teed off, sending Bartolo Colon and the Mets over Atlanta for their ninth win in 10 games.

The Mets' homer barrage came in a span of 16 pitches.

Cardinals 10, Phillies 3

In St. Louis, Adam Wainwright pitched six innings and hit a three-run home run—the first of five for St. Louis—as the Cardinals snapped a four-game losing streak.

In this victory, Wainwright allowed three runs and five hits. He improved to 6-2 in 11 career starts against the Phillies.

Twins 6, Astros 2

In Houston, Brian Dozier broke out of a slump with three hits and Minnesota snapped Dallas Keuchel's 17-game home winning streak with a victory over Houston.

Keuchel (2-4) allowed five runs on five hits with three strikeouts in 4 1/3 innings and struggled with his command for the third time this season, walking five.

Giants, Reds 6

In Cincinnati, the Reds roughed up Johnny Cueto in his return to Great American Ball Park, but San Francisco rallied against the Reds' historically bad bullpen, riding Brandon Crawford's three-run homer to a victory.

The Reds' bullpen tied history while letting a 6-3 lead slip away.

Rangers 2, Blue Jays 1

In Toronto, Nomar Mazara hit a tiebreaking home run in the eighth inning and Texas beat Toronto for its fifth win in six games.

In the bottom of the eighth, Mazara preserved the one-run lead by throwing out Michael Saunders at home plate to end the inning.

Brewers 8, Angels 5

In Milwaukee, Jimmy Nelson pitched seven strong innings and drove in the go-ahead run to lead Milwaukee past Los Angeles.

Nelson (4-2) retired 15 of 16 batters before giving up a solo home run to Mike Trout in the sixth. He allowed two runs and four hits over seven innings.

Mariners 4, Athletics 3

In Oakland, Robinson Cano had three hits and scored twice and Kyle Seager hit a tiebreaking double in the sixth inning for Seattle.

Nelson Cruz added three hits, and Chris Iannetta and Adam Lind drove in runs for the Mariners, who have won five straight at the Oakland Coliseum.

Padres 2, Rockies 1

In San Diego, Matt Kemp hit a two-run double in the first inning to help James Shields earn his first victory of the season as San Diego overcame 11 strikeouts by Jon Gray.

Shields (1-4) allowed one run while scattering nine hits over six innings. He struck out five and walked two.

Brewers hand Yankees fourth straight loss

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The GSM Brewers added to the Yankees' woes after posting a 13-10 win last Friday in the 2016 Saipan Baseball League at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Brewers got their fourth straight victory and fifth overall in sixth games (pending results of last Monday and Tuesday's matches) to shadow the unbeaten Chalan Kanoa Bears (6-0), while the Yankees absorbed their fourth consecutive loss after a 2-0 start for a share of sixth place in the team standings.

The defending champions piled up early runs to dictate the tempo of the game and then shut down the Yankees, who rallied midway in the game, in the last three innings to take the win. The Brewers went up 9-1, after three innings, before the Yankees forced a standoff, 10-all as the former mounted a comeback that was highlighted by their six-run bottom of the sixth.

The Brewers, who were outscored by the Yankees from the fourth to sixth, 1-9, regained the upper hand behind Ricardo Dela Cruz's two-run single in the seventh and Jesse Brel's run off a passed ball and never looked back. Closer Vince Cepeda helped the Brewers keep the lead, as he pitched in the last two innings and had four strikeouts, including the three straight Ks at the bottom of the ninth.

Nokki Saralu went 3-for-6 in the Brewers' win and had three RBIs and two runs. Tyrone Omar got only one RBI off his 3-for-5 performance at the plate, but he scored three runs. Ton Tenorio also had three runs and hit 4-for-6 at the plate.

Meanwhile, the Bears kept their perfect record after slipping past Titanium last Thursday, 12-11.

A.J. Lizama made the dagger, blasting a two-run single at the bottom of the ninth. He also pitched for the Bears at the top of the last inning where Titanium was called for a 1-2-3 inning as Lizama struck out leadoff batter Ian Lizama and third batter Joe Palacios. Marvin Ngekebei was booted out on a 6-3 play for Titanium's second out and the squad absorbed their second straight loss after a 3-0 start.

The Bears got their five wins in as many games despite failing to score in the first four innings. A five-run bottom of the fifth started things out for the pacesetters and they kept going, lighting up the board in the last three.

QB Sanchez sees Lynch selection as endorsement

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP)—Normally, watching the boss trade up in the first round of the NFL draft to take a player at your position wouldn't be such good news. Mark Sanchez saw it as a vote of confidence.

"Absolutely, and that's been the message I've received," Sanchez said Monday. "I'm thrilled about this opportunity. So, whether it was a veteran they brought in, any of names that were out there, any of these guys in the draft that are becoming pros this year, my focus wouldn't change."

Denver Broncos general manager John Elway outmaneuvered Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones to move up in a trade with Seattle to select Memphis QB Paxton Lynch with the 26th overall pick last week.

Although Lynch is a potential franchise quarterback, he ideally needs some seasoning in the pros, and the other QB on the Denver roster, Trevor Siemian, has taken just one NFL snap.

Lynch's selection put the kibosh on Elway's pursuit of another veteran quarterback because Denver's GM wants these three quarterbacks all getting snaps with the starters this offseason.

That leaves Sanchez, who hasn't been a fulltime starter since 2012, as the front-runner to win the starting job.

Elway has been saying all spring that he'd be fine with Sanchez as the starter when the Broncos begin defense of their title in September against Carolina, whom they beat in the Super Bowl.

"Because he's been in playoffs, he's been in championship games," Elway said. "He's proven he can do that. He hasn't done it in a while. I don't know that he's ever been in a great offensive system that takes advantage of what he can do. And I can't tell you I've gone and studied him when he was with the Jets. I know with the Eagles last year ... he played OK when he did play. He made a couple of mistakes.

AP

Denver Broncos first-round selection in the NFL football draft quarterback Paxton Lynch, left, from Memphis, holds his jersey with the help of team general manager John Elway as Lynch is introduced Friday, April 29, 2016, in the team's headquarters in Englewood, Colo.

"So, I think sometimes you get quarterbacks in the right situations, you get the right people around him, then you have a chance to take advantage of what they can do."

Sanchez isn't getting ahead of himself, however.

"We've sure got a long way to go and it's been one day on the field but I sure am enjoying this process," Sanchez said after the start of on-field workouts Monday marked the first time he'd been on the field with his new team. "I love the concepts here. I love what Coach (Gary) Kubiak has done with quarterbacks in the past. Everywhere he's gone guys with different skill sets have had success and that's due to him and his staff and the system. ... So, that's very encouraging."

Sanchez said it's easy to mentor someone you're competing with because "if you're confident in your ability, you've got no problem helping a guy. ... If he sees something, whether it's on the field or off the field, you just help him out as much as you can."

Sanchez said he's spent the last two months learning the playbook, getting to know his teammates and getting involved in the community. What he refused to do, he said, was waste time fretting over the Broncos' pursuit of Colin Kaepernick or any other veteran QB.

"Why become a slave to your emotions like that? It's not worth it," Sanchez said. "You're just spinning your wheels for nothing. So, I just kind of learned with time and a little more experience in this offseason stuff who knows what's going to happen and who cares?"

Sanchez said he's been impressed by Siemian, whom he said was "almost like a player-coach" at the passing camp in California where several players gathered this spring to get a head-start.

4

From Page 28

of 48.46 seconds. In the 50m freestyle, his 32.33 seconds eclipsed his old PBT of 32.87 seconds and bested five other swimmers. Aleksenko ruled the 50m freestyle and defeated SSC's Jinnosuke Suzuki (32. 66 seconds), teammate Anthony Camacho Deleon Guerrero (32.91 seconds), SSC's Taiyo Akimaru (34.15 seconds), and fellow Tsunami Saipan members Sean Gil (39.17 seconds), and Arman Rechucher (40.56).

In the girls 9 to 10 age group, Ashley Dangol also duplicated Aleksenko's AAAA mark after submitting 1:19.61 in the 100m butterfly. She crushed her PBT (1:22.91) by more than two seconds.

"It was a breakthrough for a 9-year-old swimmer," Kimura said.

Dangol had two events in the April 23 tournament and got her second PBT after logging 32.68 seconds in the 50m freestyle. Her previous PBT read at 33.40 seconds.

Another Tsunami Saipan swimmer—Nanaka Watanabe—made a good account of herself in the girls 9 to 10 age group. Watanabe completed the 100m breaststroke in 1:32.88, shattering her old PBT of 1:33.30.

"It was so close to the CNMI age group record," said Kimura.

The age group mark in the 100m breaststroke is 1:31.27, which Angel Marie Tan registered on Feb. 20, 2010.

In the 11 to 12 division, June Tenorio broke the 37-second barrier in the 50m backstroke after clocking in at 36.96 seconds, nearly a second faster than his previous PBT (37.79 seconds).

"With his new PBT, Juhn is in the best position to challenge Joshua Taitano's record, which has been there since 1994," the Tsunami Saipan coach said.

Taitano posted 34.44 seconds in the 50m backstroke on May 7, 1994 while swimming for SSC.

Besides the 50m backstroke, Tenorio also raced in the 200m backstroke where he reset his PBT, from 2:55.05 to 2:53.38.

"Our target during the sprint meet was to update personal best times. When I saw the results I was happy because we achieved our goal," said Kimura, who is preparing his swimmers for the last local meet that will be held this Saturday and for a tournament in Guam late this month.

ALL

From Page 28

Up next is the 100m run for all age groups at 5pm, while the 3,000m for middle and high school divisions is slated at 5:45pm.

For the final day of the All Schools meet on Saturday, NMA has lined up the discus throw and 4x400m relay at 9am, while the javelin throw and mixed medley relay (4x100m, 4x200m, and 4x400m) are scheduled at 10am. The mixed medley relay will feature two boys and two girls from the participating schools. There were no qualifiers in the relays, so these events are open races.

NMA is reminding all students-athletes, who qualified for the various run and field events, and their coaches to be at the venue before 4pm.

Meanwhile, Koblerville Elementary School, Brilliant Star, Saipan Community, and Kagman Elementary School students qualified in the 400m and 800m runs last week, while William S. Reyes bets joined the former's students in the 1,500m event. Agape Christian School, Saipan International School, and Hopwood, on the other hand, gained slots to the 800m and 3,000m races. SIS and Agape along with Marianas High School and Marianas Baptist Academy students qualified in the field events.

SONICS

From Page 28

Itaas' steady outside shooting and slashing moves, as the latter also finished in double figures with 20. The Sonics' 1-2 punch also drew enough support from Rafael Ordona and John Caruano, who chipped in 14 and 10, respectively, to offset the combined 54 markers of Troy Ngirarois and Napu Atalig.

Ngirarois sizzled for 30 points for the Ol'Aces, while Atalig added 24 and they kept their team in the game after the first quarter, as the Sonics were ahead by only 5, 20-15. The Ol'Aces duo combined for 10 points in the opening frame, while Kintaro and Itaas teamed up for 8 markers and the Sonics drew contributions from three other players.

In the second period, Itaas opened the Sonics' scoring with a bucket followed by Kintaro's 4 straight markers, while Ordona knocked in 10 of his total points in that canto to stretch their team's lead to double figures, 42-29.

The Zachariah Johnson-coached Sonics were never threatened from thereon, as the Ol'Aces failed to put a body on Kintaro inside, while Itaas also hit his target and delivered the killer blows for the eventual champions after scoring 11 points in the final canto.

The title victory in the inaugural Diaz caging ended the Sonics' misfortunes in the various youth leagues on Saipan beginning late last year. The club's U18 crew was ousted in the semis in the San Antonio caging and then fell to nearly the same Ol'Aces crew in the Tan Holdings holiday league's finals.

The Sonics also entered two teams in the U18 division of the Diaz youth caging with their senior squad having a good chance of making it to the playoff round.

670 Sonics 92—Kintaro 32, Itaas 20, Ordona 14, Caruana 10, Bravo 4, Dionisio 4, Bayot 2, Ruiz 2, Linaogo 2, Royce 2.

Ol'Aces 78—Ngirarois 30, Atalig 24, Saralu 11, Edrico 9, Sablan 4, Atan 2.

Scoring by quarters: 20-15, 42-29, 61-49, 92-78.

4th Tour de Tinian 100K Race Winners

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ

Ferdinand Ramos, center, Ricky Suba, left, and Charlie Cabreros pose at the podium after finishing 1-2-3 in the men's 36-45 division of last Saturday's 4th Tour de Tinian held during the San Jose Fiesta celebration in San Jose, Tinian.

Cesar Fortaleza, is flanked by runners-up Robert Tamondong, left, and Norlo Jacosalem during the awards presentation for the men's 46-over division.

Men's 16-25 age group winner Wynn Bryant Brillon, center, raises the hands of fellow 16-year-old Kenji Matias, left, and J.R. Libut.

Kenji Matias, center, Charlie Cabreros, left, and Norlo Jacosalem join hands as they emerged as the Top 3 Tinian cyclists.

Champions Fernando Cacabellos, Robert Fajardo, Richard Lazaro, and Rey Lopez, center, are joined by the quartets of Allen Perez, Floro Drexes, Alex Gozon, and Jojo Valencio, left, and Ulysses Gania, Edgar Jabinar, Dennis Deala, and George Nazarino at the podium.

Champions Romy Ampit and John Dona, right, pose with runners-up Ernie Henzon and Noe Valdismo after winning the two-man team by nine seconds.

Susan Marchitti, right, and Krizandra Gozon are all smiles after receiving their perseverance awards.

Two-time women's open champion Kimberlyn King-Hinds, right, and runner-up Felicia Reynolds pose with their medals.

Jo Libut poses with his medal in the 26-35 age group.

Thunder hold on to beat Spurs, even series at 1-1

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Dreams can come true: Leicester wins title

PAGE 25

Sonics dominate Ol'Aces in finale

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The 670 Sonics' Jester Kintaro pulls up for an and-1 basket against Wong's Sean Apasan during their semis game in the U15 division of the Diaz youth caging last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 670 Sonics won the battle of the Top 2 teams in the finale of the U15 division of the Inaugural Frank M. Diaz Memorial Youth League after romping past the Ol'Aces, 92-78, last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Sonics, who finished second in the elimination round with their 5-1 record, banked on the solid offensive games of Jester Kintaro and Kristian Itaas, to pull off an upset over the top-ranked Ol'Aces. The Ol'Aces, coming into the winner-take-all finale, were undefeated in the elimination and extended their streak to seven after beating the fourth-seeded NMI Rollers in the first semis match, 73-69, last Saturday morning, while the Sonics prevailed against Wong, 71-63, in the other Final Four pairing.

Kintaro scored 17 points in that semis win, but he had to bleed for points, as he was often doubled and even tripled team by Wong defenders. However, against the Ol'Aces in the afternoon finale, the 6'1" Kintaro was able to throw his weight around his defenders and used his height advantage to cherry pick in the paint. The Sonics center ended up leading all scorers with his 32 points.

Kintaro's strong inside presence was complemented by

See SONICS on Page 26

All Schools track meet kicks off today

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The four-day 2016 PSS/McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championships will start this afternoon as student-athletes battle for medals in the 60m run and 4x100m relay race at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

Meet director Elias Rangamar said the series of 60m sprint races for elementary, middle school, and high school divisions will kick off at 4:30pm after the 4pm opening ceremony. The 4x100m relay races in all division will begin at 5:30pm. Students from both the public and private schools on Saipan and Tinian who made the grade in the two-weeklong qualifying races will compete in today's two events and the 12 remaining contests.

Tomorrow, the organizing Northern Marianas Athletics will have the 1,500m runs for middle and high school and softball throws for elementary at 4pm, while the 200m races for all divisions will take place at 5pm. At 5:45, NMA will have the 400m races.

Then on Friday, the meet will start with the 800m races at 4pm for the elementary, middle and high school divisions, while the shot put competition will also be held at the same time.

See ALL on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Marianas High School's Gabrielle Race competes in the javelin throw qualifier for the 2016 PSS/McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championships last week at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

4 Tsunami Saipan swimmers shine in Sak Sprint

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tsunami Saipan head coach Hiro Kimura took note of the performance of four of his swimmers during the 2016 Sak Sprint Meet held late last month at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

Isaiah Aleksenko was one of the Tsunami Saipan swimmers who left a good mark in the inaugural tournament hosted by Saipan Swim Club after setting a personal best time in the 100m freestyle. Aleksenko completed the two-lap race in 1:09.51, nearly two seconds faster than his old PBT of 1:11.48.

"He broke the 1:10 barrier even though he is still 9-years-old. His time also reached AAAA in the US age group standard time," Kimura said.

The Tsunami Saipan swimmer joined two other races and also earned PBTs.

In the 50m breaststroke, he clocked in at 47.62 seconds, surpassing his previous PBT

See 4 on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Tsunami Saipan's Isaiah Aleksenko set a PBT in the 100m freestyle event in the 2016 Sak Sprint Meet held late last month at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.